

Oman, S. Arabia mark common border

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman and Saudi Arabia finished marking their common border after a 1,350-day study and are expected to sign the new maps on Monday, an Omani official said Saturday. The two countries are to sign in Riyadh 600 maps fixing their 657-kilometre border, which passes through part of the Rubes Al Khali desert, "one of the driest in the world." These maps will be sent to the United Nations, the Arab League and the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Oman's deputy agriculture minister, Sultan Ben Hamed Al Bussaidi, said. The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Oman and Saudi Arabia signed an accord in March 1990 to define their borders. In June, Oman settled its 20-year border dispute with Yemen, turning over 5,000 square kilometres of territory to that neighbour. But Oman's border with the UAE has yet to be defined. Saudi Arabia and Yemen reached an accord in February to define their common border and technical committees have met to discuss the issue. Saudi Arabia's borders with Qatar and the UAE have also yet to be defined but pass through desert zones.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالمؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Volume 19 Number 5962

AMMAN SUNDAY, JULY 9, 1995, SAFAR 11, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Cabinet approves aid agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday approved a draft accord with the German government under which Germany will give 30 million marks (JD 15 million) to Jordan's agricultural reform programme. The Cabinet, holding a regular meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also approved an agreement with the German construction bank which will give five million marks (JD 2.5 million) to support Industrial Development Bank (IDB) projects and programmes. It also agreed to exchange memos of understanding with the Japanese government on a five million yen (\$250,000) grant for Radio Jordan. The Cabinet also approved an amendment to the sales tax law and decides to send it to Parliament.

Efforts under way for Mideast bank

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb has said efforts were under way to establish a Middle East development bank at a capital of \$5 billion. In an interview with the London-based Middle East Television broadcast Saturday, Mr. Abul Ragheb said an international committee was following up issues related to the establishment of the bank. The minister said the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, will discuss two kinds of projects: one regional and the other national, which will be carried out jointly by the private and public sectors. He said the project proposals which will be presented to the conference will be in three groups: the first 27 major projects, the second between 30 and 60 projects which will be prepared by the government and carried out by the private sector, and the third prepared by the private sector to fit its needs. The minister voiced hope that the Amman summit will witness the declaration of the establishment of the regional development bank.

Yemeni leader plans Arab tour

SANAA (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh is expected to tour four Arab countries next week in a bid to promote bilateral relations, an official Yemeni newspaper said. The weekly Al Wadiah paper said in an uncorroborated report that the tour would include Qatar, Jordan, Syria and Egypt. It said Mr. Saleh would brief the leaders of the four countries "on the outcome of his talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia."

Zeroual meets Iraqi minister

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's President Liamine Zeroual met Saturday with Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib Al Malaki, who briefed him on efforts to get the United Nations Security Council to lift the embargo against Iraq. Mr. Malaki, a special envoy of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, was quoted by the official Algerian news agency APS as saying that Iraq had "respected its commitments." He added that it was up to the Security Council to maintain "its commitments contained in paragraph 22 of resolution 687 authorising the export of Iraqi oil."

Egypt, EU seek partnership deal

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and the European Union (EU) are to hold talks in Brussels in a fresh bid to reach a new partnership accord, an Egyptian official said Saturday. Saad Al Faragi, deputy foreign minister, told reporters: "Any accord with the European Union must take into account the success of Egypt's reform programme and guarantee measures to strengthen our industry."

PLO, Israel move negotiations to Italy

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinians and Israeli negotiators are moving their talks to Italy next week to try to conclude an agreement on Israeli troop redeployment from the West Bank, Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Saturday.

A senior source close to the negotiations said talks were likely to extend beyond the official July 25 deadline set for reaching an accord because of a dispute over Palestinian security responsibilities in some parts of the West Bank.

Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said the four existing sets of talks on various aspects were to be merged into one.

"Negotiating teams covering security and civil issues will be merged and one large Palestinian team and another large Israeli team will be holding intensive talks in Italy starting next week to conclude an interim accord," Mr. Asfour told Reuters.

Mr. Asfour said the PLO hopes to conclude an interim agreement by the July 25 deadline, "but it is not important if we miss the deadline by days or a week, the most important thing is to conclude a good accord."

Chief Israeli negotiator Uri Savir echoed his words, saying "it would not be a disaster" if the deadline was missed.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday he believes the emerging accord to expand Palestinian rule would not bring security to Israelis in the short run, but

that there was no other alternative.

Mr. Savir said Friday 60 per cent of the agreement has already been formulated, and the final accord would be some 200 pages long.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat expressed hope Friday that Israel would respect the July 25 target date for a deal on the extension of Palestinian self-rule.

"We hope that things develop as we would wish and that an accord is reached on July 25," Mr. Arafat told reporters during a visit to Cairo.

"Israel has so far failed to apply" the next phase of autonomy which is a year behind schedule, said Mr. Arafat before returning to Gaza after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Mr. Rabin, in an interview with Channel 2 television Friday, said there was no alternative to the emerging deal, but warned that security benefits from reaching peace with the Palestinians would only be apparent in the long term.

Many Israelis have charged that a partial Israeli troop withdrawal in the West Bank would place the lives of the 140,000 Jewish settlers there in danger.

"Without a solution between us and the Palestinians, what would happen?" Mr. Rabin asked.

"The alternative is that Hamas and Islamic Jihad will take control over the Palestinian establishment. And then terror will decrease?" he

added.

Public opinion polls published Friday indicated that the majority of Israelis believe they would feel less safe once Palestinian policemen replace Israeli troops who redeploy from West Bank towns. In two separate polls, 53 per cent said they opposed the withdrawal.

Mr. Savir said Saturday lessons of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza would be applied to the extension of self-rule to the West Bank.

"Our conclusions are the Palestinians must, from the first day in the West Bank, act against any expression of terrorism. I think in Gaza they showed as soon as they show resolve they can do it," he said in an Israeli Radio interview.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has cracked down on militants in Gaza whom it accuses of trying to undermine the deal with a campaign of violence.

Chief PLO negotiator Ahmad Qouriea told reporters after a Palestinian cabinet meeting on Saturday Israeli redeployment and Palestinian elections would be concluded by the end of the year.

PLO officials said that Israel would redeploy from seven Palestinian towns and most of the 460 villages and refugee camps in the West Bank in the first phase of redeployment which will end 22-25 days before Palestinian elections.

Israeli negotiator Joel Singer was quoted on Friday as saying Israel would initially redeploy from six towns.

7 wounded in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Five Palestinians and an Israeli were wounded in a West Bank clash on Saturday and another Israeli was stabbed and wounded in Jerusalem, Israeli and Palestinian sources said.

In the occupied West Bank town of Jenin Israeli troops shot and wounded five Palestinians, including a 13-year-old boy hit in the head, and seriously hurt, during a clash with demonstrators, Palestinian sources said. The Palestinian sources said the soldiers opened fire on the demonstrators after trying to disperse them with tear-gas and rubber bullets. Hospital officials in Jenin said the seriously wounded boy was later moved to an Israeli hospital.

Palestinians identified the boy as Wasim Ghawdh. Palestinian reporters said Ghawdh was wounded during a solidarity protest with Palestinian prisoners in the West Bank city of Jenin.

Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails started a hunger-strike June 18, demanding their release as part of the Israel-PLO autonomy accord.

On Thursday inmates at six Israeli prisons ended their strike, but prisoners at three other prisons said they would continue to fast until Israel pledges to release all of the 5,500 Palestinians it holds.

An army statement said an Arab youth was seriously injured in Jenin Saturday when troops dispersed a large

crowd blocking a main artery in the city with burning tires. The army said the crowd was hurling stones and fire bombs at the soldiers.

The youth was brought to the Israeli hospital of Rambam in Haifa for treatment, the statement said. An army spokesman added that an Israeli border policeman was slightly injured in the confrontation.

In Jerusalem Saturday, a 27-year-old Jew was stabbed and slightly injured in the hand. The victim was taken to hospital and police said they suspected Palestinians in the attack.

A few dozen Palestinians were rounded up for questioning, a police statement said.

Serbs assault town; Dutch soldier killed in army fire

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb infantry attacked near the eastern Srebrenica enclave Saturday, temporarily surrounding U.N. peacekeepers in an observation post before allowing them to retreat.

One Dutch peacekeeper was killed when his group came under Bosnian government fire while withdrawing, said Jim Landale, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

The United Nations called in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) warplanes to buzz the Srebrenica enclave, but did not ask them to strike, said Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward, another U.N. spokesman.

The afternoon infantry assault followed an upsurge in Bosnian Serb tank shelling of the enclave and Srebrenica "safe area," which left at least three civilians dead and several others wounded since Friday.

Col. Coward said Bosnian Serb infantry attacked on the southeastern edge of the enclave, pushing north and securing high ground above the main road. The U.N. observation post was sur-

rounded during the assault, but the group of 10 to 15 Dutch peacekeepers was later allowed to withdraw.

While withdrawing, the peacekeepers came under fire. "There is little doubt that the peacekeeper was shot by Bosnian government troops," said Alexander Ivanko, another U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo. "The observation post is very near the front line. It appears that while the Dutch were withdrawing from their post and moving north into that enclave, government troops opened fire on them."

It was the second U.N. observation post in the southern part of the enclave to be evacuated under fire in about a month. Serb forces have been slowly pushing north towards the enclave, apparently trying to force government forces and peacekeepers back from a key position overlooking an east-west Serb supply route on the southeastern edge of the enclave.

Even by the standards of Bosnia's three-year-old war, fighting has worsened dra-

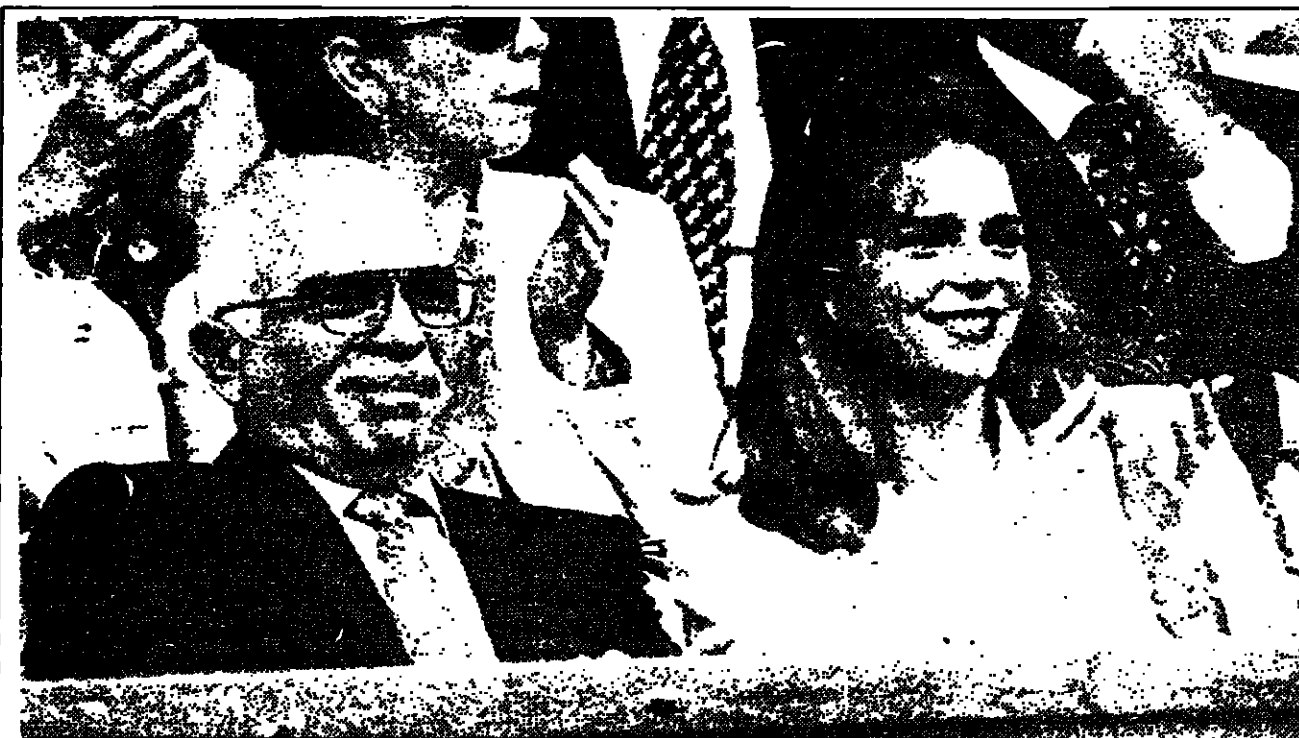
matically over the last week.

On Wednesday, a rebel Serb plane, violating the "no-fly" zone over Bosnia, rocketed government-held territory in the northwest. On Thursday, hundreds of shells rained down on U.N. peacekeepers and civilians in the U.N. "safe area" of Srebrenica. On Friday, European Union (EU) peace envoy Carl Bildt twice escaped injury when Bosnian Serbs opened fire on a road on which he was travelling and later his U.N. helicopter.

Bosnian Serb forces launched a furious assault on Thursday morning sending rockets crashing into Srebrenica town followed by tank and artillery fire on front lines to the south and north of the town. Fighting slowed on Friday but overnight and during Saturday the enclave was rocked by hundreds of explosions.

In their offensive the Serbs have also targeted a U.N. compound in the enclave.

The Dutch observation post attacked by the Serbs was in the south of the enclave and also targeted on



WIMBLEDON: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Friday watch the semi-final tennis match at

Wimbledon between Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia and Pete Sampras of the United States (AFP photo)

Egypt rejects mediation with Sudan

MANAMA (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Saturday that Cairo does not accept mediation in its rift with neighbouring Sudan.

"I do not think that mediation is called for between us and Sudan if intentions became sincere and if policies that trouble and irritate many African, Arab and Islamic states are ended," he told reporters at a two-day meeting of the so-called Damascus declaration states — the Six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members, Egypt and Syria — which opened here Saturday (see page 12).

The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

It was not clear why Cairo does not want any mediation in its long-running dispute with Sudan.

But Egypt accuses Sudan of orchestrating an assassination attempt by extremists on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia June 26. Sudan denies that.

Mr. Musa's rejection of

Arab mediation came as Sudan's Minister for Presidential Affairs Mehdi Ibrahim Mohammad was in Damascus, the Syrian capital to urge Syria to intervene with its ally Egypt to cool tensions with Sudan.

According to officials in Damascus, Mr. Mohammad delivered a letter to President Hafez Al Assad Saturday from Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir seeking Syrian intervention.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said Mr. Assad urged Sudan and Egypt to resolve their differences, but gave no indications whether Mr. Assad would actually intervene.

"President Hafez Al Assad pointed to the importance of clearing Arab differences and abandoning anything which might negatively affect the Arab situation especially at these critical circumstances," Mr. Kourieh said.

He said the message Sudanese envoy delivered to Mr. Assad "deal with the Arab ties."

Mr. Assad gave him a reply

message, Mr. Kourieh said without giving further details about the messages.

Mr. Musa denied knowledge of Mr. Mohammad's mission. He said Cairo is awaiting the outcome of investigations in Ethiopia to determine its next moves.

Yemen and the Arab League have also been involved in efforts to defuse the crisis.

Egypt and Sudan have been at odds for years. Cairo alleges Khartoum supports Islamic militants battling Mr. Mubarak's secular regime. The June 26 assassination bid heightened tension and triggered border skirmishes.

Sudan said Saturday it would abide by its agreement with Egypt to share Nile River water but called on Cairo to respect an accord on a disputed border area as well.

"Egypt should commit itself to joint agreements as Sudan does vis-a-vis these agreements," Sudan's Irrigation Minister Yagub Abu Shura said in the official Al Engaz Al Watani newspaper.

He said Sudan was still committed to the Nile water

agreement signed by Cairo and Khartoum in 1959, but added that Egypt must "equally commit itself to all agreements signed between the two countries, including the border agreement."

Sudan and Egypt have clashed over their border area of Halaib, along the Red Sea, where three Sudanese police officers and a soldier were killed last month by the Egyptian army, according to Khartoum.

Sudan claims that Halaib is part of its territory while Egypt says that the international border was established in 1899 during the period of British-Egyptian joint rule over the area.

Sudan's Islamic religious leader, Hassan Al Tourabi, has implied that Sudan might reconsider the Nile agreement in the face of Egyptian hostility, a threat that provoked a sharp reaction from Cairo.

However, Abdul Basit Sabadrat, Sudan's information minister, played down

(Continued on page 7)

Turkish incursion displaces thousands

ANKARA (R) — About 3,000 Iraqi Kurdish civilians have fled a Turkish anti-guerrilla operation in north Iraq despite signs the raid is winding down, an Iraqi Kurdish official said on Saturday.

"They are not waiting about for the next bomb to fall on their head," Safeneh Dizaye, Ankara representative of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), told Reuters.

The United States, the main component of a Western allied air force protecting Iraq's Kurds from Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war, has strongly backed ally Turkey's assault.

The drive against Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas in the forbidding mountains of northern Iraq involved up to 3,000 troops backed up to its height by air power. The incursion began at dawn on Wednesday.

Turkish military authorities said on Friday that small groups of soldiers began to return to Turkey. Fourteen rebels were killed on Saturday just inside Turkey, bringing the PKK death toll in the operation to 104 for the loss of six Turkish soldiers, security officials said.

Turkey, criticised by some Western allies for harming Iraqi Kurds in a similar action earlier this year, has stressed several times it is being careful to protect civilians.

Mr. Dizaye said the civilians, from 18 villages in the Mezuri and Mirgah Sur districts near the Turkish border, had fled south and west to join relatives in other villages.

Most are members of the influential Barzani clan of KDP leader Massoud Barza-

ni. The KDP nominally controls the area.

There were no reports of civilian deaths but Mr. Dizaye said three Iraqi Kurds had been wounded. Two Iraqi Kurds abducted by Turkish troops in mid-week were still unaccounted for, he said.

It was not clear if any one incident caused the villagers to flee. Iraqi Kurds have in the past left their homes in great numbers to escape Iraqi government forces.

Washington has backed Turkey's operation as an act of legitimate self-defence against Kurdish extremists who often launch cross-border attacks from northern Iraq.

"We fully support all legitimate Turkish efforts to combat the PKK, which as we've noted several times, is a vicious and deadly terrorist organisation that poses a genuine threat to security within Turkey," a State Department spokesman said.

"The Turkish government has further stated that the troops are now leaving northern Iraq and that the operation should be finished in a few days," spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

Turkey drew the wrath of some of its European allies when it sent up to 35,000 troops into northern Iraq in mid-March for an assault against the PKK that lasted six weeks.

Many PKK fighters evaded that push and soon re-established their positions near the border to continue raiding Turkish security posts in their 11-year-old campaign for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey.

(Continued on page 7)

More than 60 dead in Somali clan war

MOGADISHU (R) — At least 61 people have been killed in central Somalia and the capital Mogadishu in fighting between rival clan militias in the past week, Somalia sources and militia officials said on Saturday.

Most of the fighting took place in central Somalia between supporters of General Mohammad Farah Aideded's Habre Gedir clan and those of the Marehan clan of the Somali National Front (SNF) of late dictator Mohammad Siad Barre.

At least 31 people were killed in heavy mid-week fighting. SNF official Issa Ugas Tarab told a news conference in north Mogadishu on Saturday.

More than 50 people were wounded, he added.

"Inter-clan skirmishes have risen in the three weeks since supporters of Aideded proclaimed him president of the whole of Somalia," Mr. Tarab told reporters. "It is because people are a little more uncertain of political trends."

A spokesman for Gen. Aideded's Somali National Alliance (SNA) said that before the fighting broke out, mostly in Aideded-supporting villages in Galgaduud, SNF militia had raided the area and killed 23 people to punish them for apparently backing the wrong group.

Mr. Tarab denied that, saying SNF militia were not involved in any massacre of innocent people.

Somali sources said that among other deaths two people were killed and dozens wounded on Friday when rival factions within the SNA shot at each other along the road to the airport in Mogadishu.

Fighting then spread to the airport but died down on Saturday and Sunday Mogadishu remain calm.

Mr. Tarab said four Marehan clansmen had been killed in Mogadishu in the past three days, the body of one being found handcuffed on Mogadishu beach. He blamed their deaths of Aideded militia.

The SNA official blamed "blood feuds" for the fighting but Mr. Tarab said jostling for political power led to the fresh wave of fighting.

In Mogadishu, Gen. Aideded on a visit to his radio, which he terms his information ministry, said that those who took part in the struggle for Somali emancipation would be honoured.

He also pledged that "the fruits of their treason" would go to those Somalis who he said had sided with the Horn of African country's enemies.

Three weeks ago, after Gen. Aideded was ousted as SNA chairman by his one-time financier, Osman Atto, in a party coup, Gen. Aideded's followers declared him president of the country.

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See Page Before Last



Arafat wants to move PNC to Gaza Strip

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is seeking to move the headquarters of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to the autonomous Gaza Strip, but many PNC members and the acting speaker of the council as well as several members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee are resisting the move.

Salim Zanoun, the acting speaker of the Amman-based council, was quoted as saying in the local press that Mr. Arafat, chairman of the PLO, had sent him a message to prepare for the move.

But, Mr. Zanoun said he was not favourable to the move if only because moving the PNC to the Gaza Strip at this point in time would deprive it of independence because the territory remains under Israeli control.

According to Palestinian sources, most Amman-based members of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile are also opposed to the move.

Mr. Arafat is under Israeli pressure to convene the PNC and amend the PNC Charter to implicitly call for the elimination of the Jewish state.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has reportedly told Mr. Arafat that an Israeli military redeployment in the West Bank — which is under negotiation now — would come only after the PNC has been removed.

Mr. Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres first raised the issue of eliminating the PNC in a meeting in Paris in mid-1994.

with Mr. Arafat. The PLO chairman, who accepted the Israeli demand, has since been sounding out PNC members to convene a meeting in Gaza, where he is based since July 1994 after launching self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May.

But many PNC members, including those who support the September 1993 Israeli-PLO self-rule accord, oppose the move. They argue that convening the council in the Gaza Strip cannot come as long as Israel continues to occupy Palestinian lands.

In his comments carried in the local press on Saturday, Mr. Zanoun said any transfer of the PNC from Amman should come only after two-thirds of the 18 members of the PLO Executive Committee agree to the move.

"Moving the PNC to the Gaza Strip now will deprive the council of its independence," Mr. Zanoun was quoted as saying.

According to Mr. Zanoun, several PLO Executive Committee members, including Mahmoud Abbas, architect of the self-rule accord, also oppose the move. He did not name others.

Palestinian sources said it was highly unlikely that Mr. Arafat would secure enough support in the full Executive Committee for his proposal. At least six members have quit the committee.

"Furthermore, most PNC members, including a good number of independents, remain opposed to any move to tamper with the council, which they see as the last vestige of independent Palestinian decision making," said a PNC member resident in Amman.

Turkish reform fiasco threatens Ciller plans

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's courtship of the European Union (EU) suffered an unexpected setback this week with the government's failure to push through a democratic reform of the country's constitution inherited from the last military regime.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was forced Thursday night to shelve indefinitely the reform of about 20 articles of the constitution promulgated in 1982 by the regime brought to power by a military coup in 1980.

Amongst other things, the amendments would have given civil servants the same right as other workers to join a trade union and would have allowed unions and other associations to engage in political activity.

Another amendment would have lowered the age for voting or being elected to public office.

Yet another called for the suppression of the constitution's preamble praising the 1980 coup d'etat.

Though the reform has not been completely abandoned and could be revived at the next parliamentary session in September, its prospects look increasingly gloomy at this stage.

None of the amendments mustered the two-thirds majority (300 votes out of 450) required for automatic adoption of a constitutional reform.

If an amendment garners between 270 and 300 votes, then a referendum must be held to decide the issue.

If there are fewer than 270 votes in favour the reform is rejected.

On Thursday, a key amendment to allow government employees to join a union with the right to strike and bargain collectively was rejected with only 225 votes in favour.

The rejection came as a surprise because the amendment had been submitted jointly by the two partners in the ruling coalition and by the main opposition party.

These three parties: Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP), the social-democratic People's Republican Party (CHP) of Deputy Prime Minister Hikmet Cetin and the Motherland Party (ANAP) of Mesut Yilmaz have a total of 344 seats.

But the most conservative of the DYP and ANAP deputies defected and voted instead with the Islamic Prosperity Party (Refah) in a bloc hostile to the reforms.

The Refah Party had warned in advance that it would oppose the constitutional reform because the project did not modify an article upholding the secular nature of the state.

Personal rivalry between Ms. Ciller and Mr. Yilmaz further contributed to the failure of the reform.



KINKEL IN BEIRUT: German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel (center) on Friday tours the war-devastated city centre of Beirut, where a multi-billion dollar reconstruction project has been launched. Mr. Kinkel was in Beirut for a short visit for talks with Lebanese leaders on the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations and German role in the reconstruction of Lebanon (AFP photo).

Gaza gourmets spoil for choice in restaurant boom

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Where once there was only hummus and fufuf, today Gaza's gastronomers can pick from an unprecedented range of cuisines as restaurants open up.

Thirteen months of Palestinian autonomy has seen a boom in eating-out.

During 27 years of Israeli occupation, which ended in May 1994, the hours of darkness meant curfew and therefore either bed or clandestine resistance time.

Today Gazans relish an evening out like only those who have long been deprived can.

"When we opened in 1992 we were the only restaurant on the sea-front," recalled

"Lido" manager Nader Al Shurafa.

But he has long since lost his monopoly and means that every new restaurant takes away his diners.

More than 20 restaurants have started up, leading to some lively competition.

In June "La Mirage" opened its doors, just a few dozen metres down the road from the Lido.

Now 22 waiters in yellow shirts and black trousers serve an average of 250 customers each day.

"I decided to call my restaurant La Mirage and not the La Mirage to pull in diners," said manager Bassel Eleiwa. "People are drawn to the error of grammar," he

claimed.

On the menu, Gaza's high society goes for the fish with spaghetti.

Mr. Eleiwa, a canny businessman, already lists Palestinian International Cooperation and Planning Minister Nabil Shaath among his regulars.

He has also taken local customs into account and divided his establishment into three separate areas: a terrace overlooking the sea reserved for married couples, a communal dining room and a flat roof top for men only.

But the coast road is lined with cars bumper to bumper every evening heading for another restaurant, the "Haifa" which specialises in

Italian food.

"I called my restaurant after the name of the town in northern Israel because the Palestinians recall it with nostalgia and because that's where my mother is from," said owner Ali Abu Midein.

"All my cooks and waiters used to work in Israel. They are real professionals," he boasted.

Beneath a palm roof, customers sit at the white tables, occasionally looking out across the Mediterranean waves, or drawing on a nargile pipe.

"I lived in the United States for 12 years and I never saw such a beautiful place," said one man.

Yemen says it has rebuilt 80% of damage caused by war

SANAA (R) — Yemen has rebuilt 80 per cent of areas and services damaged during a two-month civil war in which Aden-based southern secessionists were crushed by forces loyal to Sanaa, President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Saturday.

Addressing a military parade in Sanaa to mark the occasion, labelled by official media as "The Day of the Great Victory," Mr. Saleh said: "The government has rebuilt about 80 per cent of the damage caused by the war."

He gave no further details. Official sources said the rebuilding covered damaged infrastructures and houses mainly in the southern and eastern provinces forming the former South Yemen.

North and South Yemen merged in an uneasy power-sharing union in May 1990. Four years later an independent state with Aden as its capital was declared in the south but was crushed when Mr. Saleh's forces captured Aden.

At the parade, Mr. Saleh conferred medals on the names of about 3,000 military "martyrs" killed during the war.

Opening of Nefertari's Tomb stirs debate on costs of tourism

LUXOR (AP) — Tucked in a mountain for 3,200 years, the tomb of Queen Nefertari will soon open to the public, with visitors required to wear masks and shoe coverings to protect the vivid yet delicate paintings.

But the imminent arrival of tourists has set off a debate between those eager to rejuvenate Egypt's sagging tourism industry and others who worry that exposure to the masses will destroy the queen's legacy.

Nefertari, or "the most beautiful," was the wife of Ramses II, who reigned over Egypt from 1304 B.C. to 1236 B.C., one of the greatest periods of ancient Egyptian civilisation.

Her tomb was hewn inside a mountain in the arid Valley of the Queens, the royal burial ground in Luxor for the wives and sons of the pharaohs. Early on, grave robbers stole her mummy.

But her presence is felt in the tomb's paintings — some that look like they were crafted only years ago. The murals show the queen with a serene face wearing a white dress topped with a seethrough cape. In other images, she stands gracefully in thin shippers with nails and toes painted white, or dressed in different wigs and earrings.

On the ceiling, yellow stars were painted on a blue background to represent the skies through which her soul

travels to eternity.

The fragility of the tomb's paintings has led some archaeologists to warn that even the surgical masks and shoe coverings tourists must wear will not adequately protect the murals.

Miguel Angel Corzo, director of the J. Paul Getty Conservation Institute, which mounted a major project to save the tomb, said if 125 people stayed in the tomb for an hour their breathing would produce the equivalent of three gallons of water poured on the walls.

Italian archaeologist Paolo Mora, who with his wife, Laura, headed the restoration team, recommended that fewer than 10 people be allowed in every hour to keep the humidity down. He also suggested draping transparent curtains across the paintings once tourists arrive in November.

"The fat people will rub against the paintings and will touch the walls," he said. "There are some very narrow corridors."

The tomb was discovered in 1904 by Italian archaeologist Ernesto Schiaparelli. Many of the 160 square metres of paintings were already in bad shape — seeping water dried into salt crystals that broke off the plaster. Parts of the paintings eroded into coloured dust.

Past preservation efforts contributed to their decay.

The use of gauze to keep the paintings together eventually pulled down the colours because the fabric was too heavy.

In 1986, the Getty Institute, based in Marina del Rey, California, began the latest conservation effort.

Several restoration methods were employed, including using plaster made of the tomb's original material and mixing it with a little water. The scientists brushed away dust and polished the paintings with special solvents. About 10,000 strips of fine-grained Japanese mulberry bark paper were applied to the cracks.

Abdul Halim Nouredin, director of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, insists the tomb is in good enough condition to allow for the opening. In addition, he said, "we want the tourism."

A three-year campaign by militants to overthrow Egypt's secular government has scared away many tourists, costing Egypt an estimated \$3 billion in lost revenue.

Mr. Nouredin said an inspector will keep an eye on visitors inside the tomb. He promised only eight people would be allowed to enter every hour and said temperature and humidity would be monitored.

"Nobody can really care for our antiquities more than us," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya welcomes Hurd's departure from office

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya on Friday welcomed the departure of Douglas Hurd as the head of the British Foreign Office but warned that his success would be put to the test over the Lockerbie blast. Former Foreign Secretary Hurd, who resigned his post last week, "represented racism and hostility to Libya, the Arabs and Islam, believing it would boost his prestige, and has just ended up in the dustbin of history," the official Libyan news agency JANA said. It did not, however, welcome Mr. Hurd's successor Malcolm Rifkind. "The appointment of a Jew to the Foreign Office for the first time since the Second World War proves that London no longer takes into account the feelings of Arabs," the agency said. Mr. Rifkind would be "put to the test" over his ability to put British interests first, "especially in the policy he adopts to bring about a rapprochement with the Libyan people and to resolve the Lockerbie affair," it added.

Iraq, Sudan sign oil cooperation deal

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Sudan have signed an agreement to ensure the implementation of joint oil projects, the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya reported on Saturday. It said the deal focused on exploration, establishment of refineries and training of experts in the oil industry. Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Mohammad Rashid and the visiting Sudanese Energy and Mining Minister Salahaddin Mohammad Karar signed the agreement, the paper said. General Rashid told Al Jumhuriya that Iraq was keen to boost "technical cooperation with Sudan in line with the distinguished relations between President Saddam Hussein and General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir." He said cooperation between the two countries had resulted in new gains for Sudan's oil industry. He did not elaborate. Mr. Karar met President Saddam on Thursday and handed him a message from Gen. Bashir.

Hizbollah reelects secretary-general

BEIRUT (AP) — The pro-Iran Hizbollah has reelected its secretary-general, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, for a new two-year term. A terse Hizbollah statement published Saturday in several Beirut daily newspapers said the reelection came in a meeting of the party's Shura Council, a 12-man body that governs the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group. The statement did not say where or when the meeting took place. Sheikh Nasrallah, 42, had succeeded Sheikh Abbas Musawi, who was killed with his wife and a five-year-old son in an Israeli helicopter ambush in South Lebanon Feb. 16, 1992. The bearded, bespectacled Nasrallah is close to the so-called pragmatists in Iran, led by President Hashemi Rafsanjani. He also maintains good ties with Syria, Lebanon's main power broker. Under his leadership, Hizbollah has upgraded its guerrilla war against Israeli troops and allied militiamen in an occupied border enclave in South Lebanon.

Egypt appeals for aid to remove landmines

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has asked Western nations for \$142 million to help pay for the removal of 23 million landmines left in the country from World War II, an Egyptian diplomat said Saturday. Mumar Zahran, Cairo's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, told the daily newspaper Al Ahran the government wanted the money from the countries that planted the mines and "would provide \$50 million itself." Nearly all the mines were left by Britain and Germany in the north of Egypt's western desert around Al Alamein, scene of a decisive tank battle in 1942 which stopped German and Italian forces advancing on Cairo. Mr. Zahran was speaking after attending an international conference in Geneva on removing mines around the world.

Britain, Egypt and U.S. hold Red Sea games

CAIRO (AFP) — Britain, Egypt and the United States were holding the most important naval manoeuvres ever in the Red Sea, Egyptian newspapers reported Saturday. The week-long military exercise, which began on Wednesday involves warships from all three countries and Egyptian fighter jets in mock fighting north of the Halaib border zone which Egypt and Sudan dispute, the newspapers said. Sudan on Friday said the military exercise, which began at the Red Sea port of Safage, was a threat to its security and accused Britain and the United States of plotting with Egypt to destabilise its Islamist military government. Khartoum has been involved in a war of words with Cairo since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak implicated Sudan in a failed attempt to assassinate him in Addis Ababa on June 26.

De Klerk seeks 'mutually profitable' ties with Tunis

TUNIS (AFP) — South African Vice President Frederik de Klerk said Friday his country was ready to establish close economic ties with Tunisia in "mutually profitable" areas. Winding up a 24-hour visit to the country the former president told reporters it was necessary to "restructure" relations between the two countries before the first meeting of a joint commission scheduled for November in South Africa. During his visit he met President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and a group of Tunisian businessmen headed by the head of the employers' association UTICA, Hedi Jilani. Mr. De Klerk said Pretoria would examine the feasibility of a direct air link between Tunisia and South Africa, effectively linking the northern and southern extremes of the continent. Tunis was the last stage of Mr. De Klerk's tour which took in Egypt and Switzerland where he attended the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 3311-10

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 The Flintstones
14:30 Mighty Jungle
15:00 Puccini Summer
15:30 Movie Magic
16:00 Families
17:00 French programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Living With Wealth
20:00 Nurses
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Starblitz
22:25 Counterstrike
23:30 The Hidden Room
23:59 Grace Under Fire

PRAYER TIMES

05:58 Fajr
(Sunrise) Dhur
12:41 Dhur
16:21 'Asr
19:49 Maghrib
21:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish Tel. 610740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
632745
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel.
625226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
624528.
German-speaking Evangelical Con-
gregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-
ment of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to
drop slightly becoming around
average with winds northerly
moderate to active. In Aqaba, hot
weather conditions will prevail
with winds northerly moderate and
sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 21/31
Amman 25/40
Aqaba 20/35
Deserts 22/38
Jordan Valley 22/38

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 34, Aqaba 41. Humidity
readings: Amman 25 per cent,
Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 585446
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 594788
Dr. Khalid Jada 740740
First pharmacy 561912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimoon pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847932

DEIR:
Dr. Muhammad Al Hilal 279773
Alqada pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halasah 982799
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

"Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 192 621111, 637177
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 771126
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 661912
Complaints 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephones 623104
Repairs 623470
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akheh Maternity, J. Amn 6434412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Melhas, J. Amman 626140
Palestine, Shimoon 641714
Shimoon Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 661717
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646
Italian, Al-Mubajra 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 771126
Army, Maeda 8910115
Queen Alia Hospital 6624050
Amal Hospital 607155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999999
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 853199
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:30 Bangkok, Dubai (RJ)
08:45 Amman (RJ)
09:15 Amman (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Amman (RJ)
10:15 Amman (RJ)
10:30 Amman (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:20 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
11:25 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, Paris (RJ)
11:35 London (RJ)
11:40 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
11:45 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
11:50 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:35 New Delhi (RJ)
12:40 Bangkok (RJ)
12:45 Amman (RJ)
12:50 Amman (RJ)
13:15 Amman (RJ)
13:20 Amman (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30 Amman (RJ)
11:40 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
11:45 Amman (RJ)
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12:00 Amman (RJ)
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Home News

Jordan Times, July 9, 1995 3

Regent receives credentials of new envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan Saturday presented their credentials to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at ceremonies held at Raghadan Palace.

Bruyn of South Africa and Ade Somintre of Indonesia.

Presenting their credentials as non-resident ambassadors were Ernesto Rogalis of Venezuela, Daniel Buchan of Croatia, Hugh Swift of Ireland, Nguyen Kai of Vietnam, Cristos

Ioannou of Cyprus and Hector Cardenas of Mexico.

The ceremonies were attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qassem, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh.

Amman to host Asian trade meeting

GENEVA (Petra) — Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, the Kingdom's permanent representative at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva, said Jordan welcomed a proposal by the ministers of industry and trade in Asian countries to hold a meeting in Amman between January 7 and 12 of next year.

Sharif Fawwaz was speaking during a special meeting attended by the Asian group to discuss the nature, venue and date of the proposed meeting.

The meeting is considered part of the ongoing preparations for the ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) meeting which

convenes in the spring of next year.

In his address to the meeting, Sharif Fawwaz said that His Majesty King Hussein was keen on backing measures on economic development and cooperation among Asian nations.

Asian ministers of industry and trade held meetings in Jakarta, Colombo, Baghdad, Dacca, and Pyong Yang between 1967 and 1991.

According to Sharif Fawwaz, the 1996 conference will address global development policies, international trade, development schemes and the work of world economic organisations.

He said at least 45 ministers from Asian nations will



Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf

take part in the 1996 conference which will be preceded by a meeting of senior officials in these countries.

PSD gears up security for municipal elections

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the approach of the July 11 municipal elections, security measures are in top gear to ensure that the process runs smoothly before, during and after the elections, security sources said Saturday.

Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat, director of the Public Relations Department at the Public Security Department (PSD), said that for the past three months the department has worked on security measures for the elections.

"We are fully prepared for any sort of disturbance, interference, or tampering

with the process," Col. Obeidat said.

Col. Obeidat said he was confident that the elections would run smoothly.

According to the police official, the only possible disturbances might occur when the official results are announced.

"We have not experienced any serious incidents in the past except celebratory shootings, but we intend to prevent those, as well," the official added.

He said that gunshot incidents usually occur in places familiar to the authorities, but he did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials

Saturday said they are prepared to handle any emergency which may arise on election day.

He added that all CDD employees have been required to report to work for the week prior to election day, and that no vacation requests would be approved until after the elections.

A new municipalities law enacted last year set a unified date for the elections of the now 259 councils in the country.

Last year, the government dissolved all elected city councils, substituting them with temporary appointed councils.

Suez Canal Authority agrees to discount on some Aqaba-bound cargo — ports official

AMMAN (J. T.) — Director General of the Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) Dureid Mahasneh, Saturday returned to Amman following talks in Cairo on organising maritime transport between the Suez Canal and Aqaba.

During the three-day talks the two sides agreed on a special discount from the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) on fees normally levied on Aqaba-bound cargo vessels crossing the canal.

Shipping agents have been concerned that with the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel last October, shipping activities to Aqaba would decline drastically as access to sub-continent destinations would be opened up on less expensive routes via Israeli ports on the Mediterranean.

The proposed discount will be 20 per cent on containers and 10 per cent on

grain, both imported and exported, according to Dr. Mahasneh.

Dr. Mahasneh said that the two sides discussed the prospect of a partial exemption on canal toll fees for Jordanian exports of phosphates and potash and added that the SCA is expected to forward a decision on this issue by the middle of this month.

According to Dr. Mahasneh, such a discount would mean an estimated savings of several million dollars.

He said that the JPC will soon announce reductions on fees for ships docking at Aqaba port to encourage maritime trade into and out of the port city.

Meanwhile a Jordanian-Egyptian technical committee Saturday met in Amman to discuss economic and trade links between the countries and to prepare for a ministerial meeting due to

start today.

Mohammed Smadi, Ministry of Industry and Trade secretary general who led the Jordanian team to Saturday's meeting, told Jordan Television that the two sides discussed means of promoting trade exchanges and the removal of obstacles in the movement of goods into each other's markets.

These meetings are in implementation of the resolutions passed by the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which convened in Cairo two months ago under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his Egyptian counterpart, Atef Sidki, said Dr. Smadi.

Today's ministerial committee will be co-chaired by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and his Egyptian counterpart, Mahmoud Mohammad Mahmoud.

Government takes major steps to address water shortages into the future

Ministry signs 3 contracts for studies in water sector situation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Saturday took several major measures to advance efforts to address water shortages in the medium-and long-term by awarding contracts for detailed studies and raising a local loan for projects in the water sector.

The value of the three contracts signed by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat with representatives of foreign and local firms as well as financing agencies was JD 4.5 million.

The first involved a "hydraulic analysis of Greater Amman's Water supply system" given to a German firm, Deutsche Consult, in collaboration with a local company at a cost of JD 1.5 million. The study is financed by a grant from the German government.

The grant raised to 21 million marks (about JD 10.5 million) the German grant to Jordan's water sector since 1990. The German government has also extended 185 million marks (about JD 87.5 million) in loans to the water sector during the same period.

The second contract was for a study on a conveyor system to bring water from Qa Disi near the border with Saudi Arabia in the south to Amman.

The JD 738,540 study was awarded jointly to Harza Engineering of the U.S. and Gibbs of Britain — with a local affiliate — under a

grant given by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), an arm of the British government.

The ODA also financed another study on the Qa Disi reservoir dealing with an actual assessment of the aquifer.

That study was completed this month.

Qa Disi is a vital component in Jordan's medium-term plans to address the water shortage in Amman. The underground reservoir contains what experts describe as the "oldest fossil water" on earth suitable for drinking.

But overpumping from the aquifer and the use of Disi for agricultural purposes have been severely criticised by experts who point out that the reserves are not replenishable.

The third contract signed on Saturday was to build a workshop for the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) in Russeifa outside Amman.

A local firm was given the JD 2.25 million contract. Financing for the project came from an \$7 million grant aid from the Japanese government. The aid agreement will be signed by the head of the Water Authority of Jordan and Japanese officials in Tokyo this week.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh and Mr. Irsheidat also signed another agreement with a local consortium of banks to raise JD 15 million in loans to be used in the water sector.

The contracts for studies and the work shop as well as



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and German officials Sunday sign a contract for a hydraulic analysis of Greater Amman's water supply system (Petra photo)

the loan agreement are seen as taking the authorities a step closer to realising solutions to the acute water shortages in Jordan through setting up new projects and making available more water to residents.

The analysis to be conducted on the Amman water supply system falls in line with the government's plan to replace the old worn-out pipelines in the network to avoid leakages, which, at some points, are estimated at half the pumped water.

The study will come up with an inventory of existing facilities, analysis of population densities and water supply situation within Amman Governorate, and identify problems and solu-

tions. It will also include recommendations on how the present system could be restructured, monitoring could be improved and the best cost-efficiency could be assured.

The study will also include a "rehabilitation" strategy and cost assessment as well as a definition of priority projects.

In the case of the Disi aquifer, a planned project calls for laying a pipeline to carry up to 100 million cubic metres of water every year from the reservoir to Amman.

The study awarded on Saturday involves the first stage of the project, and is expected to be completed in nine months starting in August.

Project designs and tender documents etc. will be handled in the second stage.

The Russeifa workshop is aimed at increasing the efficiency of WAJ maintenance staff and improving their capabilities to repair water installations and equipment.

The Japanese grant will include part of the equipment to be used at the workshop.

The government has drawn up projects worth more than JD 500 million in the water sector.

The projects are expected to be presented at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman in October for financing.

'Burnt market' capers begin to unfold

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fallout of the so-called "burnt market" — where consumer products and household items are sold at unbelievably low-cost prices — is slowly unfolding, with dozens of cases of defaulting merchants being reported by bankers and businessmen.

Several of the "burnt market" merchants — con-men in other words — are missing from their usual haunts, and some of them are believed to have fled the country, the bankers and businessmen said.

At least one of them was recently arrested in Egypt by Interpol upon a request by Jordanian police and sent back to Jordan to face trial, according to sources.

The alleged background of the man is similar to many others: Buying consumer products and household

items from wholesalers and dealers at regular prices against post-dated cheques and selling them at half prices in the market for cash.

Some traders have successfully managed to continue the business despite the actual losses they suffered because they skillfully circulated others' funds to keep creditors happy, according to reports.

For obvious reasons, none of them has been identified by name. The case of the man extradited from Cairo involves up to JD 2.5 million in televisions, refrigerators, radios and other electronic and electrical appliances, according to reports.

The reports said the man used to approach wholesalers and dealers and do a few legitimate deals with prompt payment.

"Then comes the bust," said a trader who is familiar with the case. "The man

would seek big quantities of goods and guarantee payment with a post-dated cheque. Obviously the wholesalers and dealers who had been taken in by the prompt initial dealings did not hesitate to supply the goods against post-dated cheques.

"Obviously at some point the going got too rough for the man after his commitments got too big for any more stalling," said the trader, who did not want to be identified. "He ran away to Egypt."

Police traced him to Egypt and requested help from Interpol, which arrested the man and sent him back.

According to the trader, it is highly unlikely that the man would be able to settle the payments.

Even if he manages that, he is still liable for prosecution for issuing cheques without balances, lawyers said.

According to a senior banking executive, "it is only one case among dozens, perhaps hundreds that he had heard about."

"Liquidity is the key to the 'burnt market'," said the executive, who also did not want to be identified.

"If you have liquidity — legitimate or illegitimate — then you are in a good position in the market, and can easily move Ibrahim's hat to Osama and vice-versa," said the executive, using a popular expression.

There is not estimate available on the amount involved in the burnt market, but market observers say it could run into tens of millions of dinars.

They cite the amount involved in bounced cheques reported by banks as one of the indicators of the phenomena.

According to banking experts and businessmen, the "burnt market" has not

only led to serious losses to some of them but has also depressed the market since many consumers turned to the cut-throat prices the market offered.

"Can you imagine anyone coming to the regular market and paying JD 450 for a television set when he could get the same set for around JD 200 or JD 250 in the burnt market," asked a dealer of electrical appliances in downtown Amman.

"It is we, those who have invested our own savings and loans at high interest rates from the banks, who are suffering," added the trader.

Market analysts say consumer awareness is the key to solving the problem. But in a market like Jordan's, where the average man's purchasing power is limited, it is very difficult to raise consumer awareness at this point in time, they say.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rawabdeh reviews cooperation with Islamic cultural group

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Saturday met with Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Abdul Aziz Tuweijri. Dr. Tuweijri voiced his appreciation of the support extended by the Jordanian government to his organisation, whether in terms of active participation in its programmes and activities or in terms of Jordan honouring its financial commitments to the organisation. Dr. Tuweijri also commended the cooperation existing between the organisation and the national committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on the one hand and the Ministry of Education on the other, praising Jordan's distinguished role in implementing educational projects and programmes.

Jordan, Oman discuss educational assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat Saturday said the ministry was ready to offer every possible assistance and expertise to Oman in educational fields. Meeting with Chairman of the Omani Contracting and Secondments Committee Ahmad Zubaidi, who is currently visiting the Kingdom to interview Jordanian teachers selected to work in Oman.

Tarshihi heads for conference in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Palestinian Affairs Department Ibrahim Tarshihi Monday left for Cairo to head Jordan's delegation at a conference of supervisors of Palestinian affairs in Arab countries. The week-long conference will discuss issues pertaining to the Palestinian cause, including Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories, the financial conditions of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), as well as the economic and social conditions in the Palestinian territories.

New road expected to ease Amman traffic pressure

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday opened a new road recently built by the Greater Amman Municipality, linking Wadi Al Qaisieh near the Ras Al Ain district with Queen Zein Al Sharaf road.

Following the official opening ceremony Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi told Jordan Television that the road, which cost JD 1.6 million to build, was designed and completed in two months.

Contractors call for active private, public sector role in MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Contractors' Association (JCA) Saturday called for the active cooperation of private and public sectors in the preparations for the October Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in Amman.

A large part of the proposed projects to be submitted to the conference are infrastructure schemes which means that the contractors' sector should play a significant role in the organisation of the meeting, said JCA president Mohammad Murad.

The Ministry of Planning has compiled proposals for 30 economic projects estimated at a cost of \$4 billion to be submitted to the conference.

The Jordanian contractors have stepped up their contacts with Arab and foreign delegations planning on attending the conference to ensure their full participation in the discussions, said Mr. Murad.

Not only has the JCA encouraged Arab and foreign businessmen to take an active part in the coming summit, but it has also participated in all government-sponsored preparations for the summit and has arranged for the submission of specific projects to foreign investors, said Mr. Murad.

He urged the government to involve Arab organisations in the preliminary process and to advance inter-Arab coordination in matters related to the conference to ensure its success.

In remarks about the preparations for the summit in October, Jordanian economist Bassam Saket said that although the pace of preparations is generally satisfactory, greater effort on the part of the private sector is needed to boost those of the public sector.

Dr. Saket, who is also board chairman of Jordan Cement Factories, said all proposals for economic development should be linked to the export market.

Proposals from the public sector deal with infrastructure, roads, water dams, transport, telecommunications, railways, electricity and tourism.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed times and places with the concerned institutions.

FILMS

- * "Gettysburg" (parts I & II), at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.
- * Japanese film, with subtitles in Arabic, "Bu Su," at the Samir Rifai Auditorium of the University of Jordan, at 5:30 p.m.

MUSIC RECITAL

- * By Munir Bashir at Darat Al Furun at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Paintings by Muhannad Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.
- * Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Furun
- * Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges, entitled, "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Art.
- * Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Al Hakim at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

Peace talks postponed amid new tension, violence in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Talks between the Pakistani government and the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) aimed at ending the bloodshed here, were postponed Saturday as fresh violence claimed more lives in the troubled city.

The delay in the talks, scheduled for Sunday in Islamabad, came after a local MQM leader died in police custody amid claims by the ethnic-based movement that he was tortured by police.

Both government officials and the MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking migrants from India who came here after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent, confirmed the postponement of the meeting.

In Islamabad, Law Minister Nadeem Khan, who was to head the government negotiating team appointed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, abruptly cancelled a scheduled news conference on the talks.

His aides confirmed that Sunday's planned meeting with the MQM had been put off until a date to be set, adding that the government would issue a statement at a later stage to explain the reasons for the delay.

Ajmal Dehlvi, MQM's chief negotiator, meanwhile said here that the government had proposed that the two delegations should meet for talks in the national capital Tuesday.

But he said he was uncertain whether the date would be acceptable to his party and added that the MQM would make a decision after receiving instructions from its chief, Altaf Hussain, who lives in self-exile in London.

His colleague, Tariq Javed, who is a part of the five-member MQM negotiating team, said it would require "a lot of courage on our part" to sit down with the government amid the prevailing tensions dividing the two sides.

The second postponement in the week since the two sides agreed to enter talks on restoring peace in Karachi came as MQM called for a two-day mourning period from Sunday to protest the death of an MQM official in police custody.

The party alleged that Aslam Subzwari, a local MQM leader, had been tortured to death by police, while the government said Mr. Subzwari, 35, had died of a heart attack. The MQM has dismissed the explanation and said his body bore signs of excessive torture.

A senior government official said a judicial probe had been ordered.

The mourning period raised fears of an escalation of the violence in Karachi, as previous such events have led to widespread bloodshed in the city, which has seen more than 900 killings this year.

now in Malaysia on an official visit, has blamed MQM for "terrorism" in Karachi, while the party accuses her government of victimising the Urdu-speaking community.

Fresh violence meanwhile claimed three more lives in Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital, following the announcement of the postponement of the ground-breaking talks without a new date being set.

Snipers killed two people in this strife-torn city, while a police constable was killed in Hyderabad when gunmen attacked a police station, officials here said.

Another policeman was injured in the raid on the police post in Hyderabad, 160 kilometres (100 miles) north-east of here.

The new deaths came after seven people were killed in Karachi Friday at the start of a second two-day weekly strike which is part of a phased protest strategy unveiled by the MQM last month in reaction to the alleged gang rape of a girl and the recent murder of a party leader.

Karachi, the country's largest city and its economic powerhouse, remained paralysed by the strike Saturday, while reports said that life had virtually ground to a standstill in Hyderabad as partial strikes were called in several other towns.

"Sporadic heavy shooting Prime Minister Bhutto,

has been going on in Hyderabad since late Friday night," a resident said by telephone.

The talks were set after a climb-down by both sides — Islamabad giving up its stand that MQM cadres first surrender arms and renounce violence, and the MQM putting aside its insistence that the government talk directly with the MQM chief in London.

Ms. Bhutto said Saturday that talks with an opposition party were only "the starting point" in easing sectarian violence in Karachi, apparently unaware that the meeting had postponed.

The talks with the MQM would be conducted by a committee formed under Pakistan's Law Ministry, she told a news conference.

"We assume this is the starting point. They will give certain demands and the government will give certain demands," she told a pre-departure press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Ms. Bhutto maintained that the fighting was isolated in just one district in Karachi, and said the rest of her country still had economic opportunities to offer foreign investors.

"As far as the city of Karachi is concerned, there are five districts and the Altaf group holds sway in only one district," she said Saturday, referring to the MQM leader Altaf Hussain, currently in self-exile in London.



This photo taken from a Japanese television station NHK broadcast shows North Korean de facto leader Kim Jong-il making his appearance at a memorial service on the eve of

the first anniversary of the death of his father Kim Il-Sung. Kim Il-Sung died July 8, 1994. At left is an unidentified officer of the Korean Peoples Army (AFP photo)

Kim Jong-il attends opening of memorial palace for Kim Il-Sung

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-il Saturday made his second high-profile appearance in two days to dedicate an eternal shrine containing his father's embalmed remains, television reports showed.

In front of thousands of North Koreans, and accompanied by senior party officials, the junior Kim, 53, cut a red ribbon to the Kumsusan Palace, Kim Il-Sung's old residence on the northern edge of Pyongyang.

The massive ceremony marked the first anniversary of the death of Kim Il-Sung, and officially opened to public view the red-flag-draped mummified remains of the man known as the world's last Stalinist leader.

"The plaza of the palace was crowded with tens of thousands of people from all walks of life," the North's state-run Korea Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo said.

"Comrade Kim Jong-il, together with the senior party and state officials, made a bow to President Kim Il-Sung in great reverence," KCNA said.

The younger Kim, who appeared Friday night at a massive memorial service, looked fit and attentive on both occasions, though he remained silent, viewers of both ceremonies shown by Japanese TV stations, said.

At the time of the elder Kim's funeral last year, Kim Jong-il had looked pale, thin and haggard, causing speculation that he was too ill to assume the leadership of North Korea for which he had been groomed for the past 20 years.

However, analysts here and in Tokyo said that the bespectacled Kim Jong-il's relatively robust appearance at the anniversary, speeches hailing him as "another Kim Il-Sung" and other hints indicate he may soon formally take over the leadership of the fanatically isolationist state.

The positions of state president and party general secretary, the two top posts held by Kim Il-Sung, have remained vacant since the elder Kim's death, reportedly of a heart attack July 8 last year.

Kim Jong-il has in the ensuing 12 months remained

head of the North's 1.1 million-strong armed forces, with diplomats from Pyongyang saying only that it was not seemly for him to assume formal leadership while the country was in deep mourning.

On Friday a report released by a South Korean government-funded think tank said that North Koreans were rehearsing a song celebrating Kim Jong-il's elevation to the post of party general secretary.

The song has not yet been sung in public, but contains the phrase: "Marshal Kim Jong-il has been upheld as Workers' Party General Secretary. Rejoice and celebrate," the Institute for National Unification said.

The institute also said inscriptions on statues of the elder Kim were being changed to read "Beloved Father Kim Il-Sung" instead of Great Leader.

But Saturday KCNA said the crowds flocking to the giant bronze statue of Kim Il-Sung on Pyongyang's Mansu Hill, as well as to the Kumsusan, were hailing the elder Kim as "Immortal" and as "The Great Leader."

China holds U.S. rights activist as a spy

BEIJING (R) — China said Saturday it had formally arrested Chinese-American human-rights activist Harry Wu for espionage in a move analysts said could worsen deteriorating Sino-U.S. relations.

Mr. Wu, also known by his Chinese name Wu Hongda, was arrested by the Public Security Department in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, Xinhua News Agency said. It did not say where Mr. Wu was being held.

"Chinese-American Wu Hongda was arrested here Saturday by police on charges of entering into China under false names, illegally obtaining China's state secrets and conducting criminal activities," Xinhua said in a dispatch from Wuhan.

Elaborating on Mr. Wu's alleged criminal activities, Xinhua said he had "engaged in espionage and bought secret information and stole secret documents."

"He carried these secrets abroad and provided them to foreign organisations and institutions," the agency said.

It did not say what the secret documents were.

Mr. Wu is to stand trial in China, Xinhua said.

"The case is prepared by the local judicial department of the city," it said.

Mr. Wu made a documentary for the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1994 alleging that Chinese doctors mined the organs of executed criminals for transplant. Beijing denies the allegation.

Since June, 1991, Mr. Wu allegedly stole into China on several occasions using an alias, Peter Wu or Harry Wu, and trespassed in restricted areas, Xinhua said.

Washington says Mr. Wu, a China-born U.S. citizen, has a valid Chinese visa, but Beijing says his papers are not in order.

He spent 19 years in Chinese labour camps for dissident activities and after his release wrote extensively about China's secretive prison system and alleged human-rights abuses inside prisons.

In 1985, he moved to the United States and is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

The United States has accused China of violating an internationally recognised consular convention by refusing to let U.S. diplomats contact Mr. Wu. Beijing insists it has strictly abided by the consular accord but says Washington has repeatedly violated it.

In Washington Friday, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the department had received "encouraging signs" that China might finally grant U.S. diplomats access to Mr. Wu.

Kohl pays tribute to Auschwitz dead

OSWIECIM, Poland (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, grim-faced and silent, paid tribute Saturday to the dead at the former Nazi German Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

His guide was Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, once a prisoner of the camp, in which about 1.5 million people were murdered by the occupying German forces during World War II.

In the guest book at Birkenau, the death factory where Germans gassed more than one million people transported from all over occupied Europe, Mr. Kohl wrote:

"This suffering and death, this pain and tears make us silent. Our shared remembrance and grief as well as our will to be together are our hope, are our way."

Mr. Bartoszewski, who despite his wartime suffering is a leading advocate of reconciliation between Poles and Germans, handed Mr. Kohl a three-volume book of death, listing names of those who perished in the camp.

Earlier, Mr. Kohl, accompanied by his wife Hannelore, went through Auschwitz's main gate still bearing the infamous, ironic German phrase "Arbeit macht frei" (work makes you free).

He also laid a wreath at a wall where thousands of victims were shot.

This was Mr. Kohl's second visit to Auschwitz, located in southern Poland near the town of Oswiecim. The other was in November 1989 on his first official trip to Poland.

At that time Poland has just shed communism and the two countries began to re-establish normal relations after decades of mistrust and enmity.

From Auschwitz Mr. Kohl was driven to the centre of the medieval Polish cultural centre of Krakow where, surrounded by enthusiastic crowds, he visited stalls in a splendid old market.

He then spent some quiet moments in the city's main church.

As he walked around the city square accompanied by

his Polish counterpart, Jozef Oleksy, and shaking hands with eager onlookers, people in surrounding cafes clapped in approval.

Mr. Kohl's three-day visit, which ended later Saturday, has been devoted to building common future for Poland and Germany in a united Europe.

In a much more relaxed and confident manner than during the ground-breaking first visit, Mr. Kohl once again assured his Polish hosts that Germany was determined to build with Warsaw ties as firm as those linking it with France.

He also pledged to help Poland meet its aim to become a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the European Union (EU) before the end of this century.

But Mr. Kohl also warned Poles that the bulk of work needed to attain these goals had to be done by continuing market reforms and adaptation to EU standards in all spheres of life.

Mr. Nakagawa, who accompanied police on the search, and Asahara are among over 30 cult members indicted on charges of murder and attempted murder in the March 20 sarin attack on Tokyo subways that killed 11 people and sickened 5,500.

Mr. Nakagawa had earlier confessed that the cult stashed the chemicals in the forest after the police launched a nationwide raid on Aum facilities on March 22.

Aum denies involvement in the case and Asahara has refused to discuss the charges with police investigators.

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Japan finds new evidence against cult

TOKYO (R) — An arrested member of the doomsday sect accused of gassing Tokyo subways helped Japanese police uncover more than 100 containers of ingredients and by-products of the nerve-gas sarin. Japanese media Saturday quoted police sources as saying.

NHK public broadcasting said Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department unearthed the chemical evidence in a forest in Nikko, a popular tourist area 120 kilometres north of the capital.

The containers were found precisely as indicated in a confession by Tomomasa Nakagawa, 32, a close aide of Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth Sect) leader Shoko Asahara, police officials were quoted as saying by NHK.

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India orders inquiry into tycoon's death

NEW DELHI (R) — India Saturday ordered a magistrate's inquiry into the death in a New Delhi hospital of 47-year-old fugitive tycoon Rajan Pillai, who was facing extradition to Singapore for sentencing on a fraud conviction.

The lieutenant-governor of Delhi, P.K. Dave, ordered the investigation to determine the circumstances which led to Pillai's death Friday, officials said.

The probe, to be conducted by the deputy commissioner for Delhi, D.M. Sapotia, is scheduled to be completed in 15 days.

Pillai, the so-called "biscuit king" who once controlled a \$570 million food-processing empire, was bleeding profusely from his nose and mouth and died two hours after he was taken from Delhi's Tihar Jail to the nearby state-run Deen Dayal Up-

adhyaya Hospital, relatives said.

Indian doctors were conducting a post-mortem on Pillai's body and were expected to submit their report later Saturday.

"This is a sensitive case. We will conduct a post-mortem today and give our report," Bharat Singh, medical superintendent of the hospital where Pillai died, told Reuters, Saturday.

Pillai's personal secretary, Babu Nambiar, told Reuters the former tycoon had developed a fever in jail.

"He suffered from cirrhosis of the liver since 1992. But the authorities scoffed at him when he asked for medical help the previous day," Mr. Nambiar said.

"When we asked for medical help the previous day the authorities told Mr. Pillai why didn't he go to Singapore for treatment. They thought it was a joke," Mr. Nambiar said.

A judge dismissed Pillai's plea for a special medical examination Thursday, saying his condition was not serious and he would be allowed only the "normal medication" available in Tihar Jail.

Pillai's cousin, Komal Kumar, said in the southern Indian city of Trivandrum that the tycoon was denied basic medical and other facilities in prison.

"Rajan was provided no facility in prison. He was put in a cell where he had to share the toilet with three others. He was never used to such a living," Kumar said.

Pillai's lawyers, quoted by the Press Trust of India, said they were considering contacting India's National Human Rights Commission. The lawyers were not immediately available for comment.

Britain, the former colonial power, is seeking news of the trial and its Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker has threatened that Nigeria could be barred from the Commonwealth summit of former British territories in Auckland in November.

State radio, in a commentary Saturday, rained abuse on Ms. Chalker and said Nigeria was no longer a British colony and could not be dictated to.

"It is advisable for Ms. Chalker and any other member of the British cabinet to desist from saying or doing anything that can cause unnecessary irritation in the longstanding relations between Nigeria and Britain," the radio said.

Britain is not alone in pressuring the Nigerian authorities on the coup plot.

"The rest of the team is expected in the next couple of days," the diplomat said.

Human rights probe team in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — A human rights team gathered in Nigeria's capital Saturday for a fact-finding mission amid international concern over the fate of political detainees, diplomats said.

Nigeria's military government has been under attack internationally over the secret trial of more than 23 people, including former military ruler General Olusegun Obasanjo in connection with an alleged plot to topple it in a coup d'etat.

Diplomats said the team was led by former Canadian Foreign Minister Flora MacDonald, who arrived in Lagos on Thursday, other members of the group were still awaited.

The team was sponsored by the New Delhi-based Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, a non-

governmental organisation. "They are not acting on behalf of the Commonwealth or Commonwealth governments but will report to them," one senior Western diplomat said. The mission will end on July 18th.

"Their programme is still being drawn up but they hope to see a broad spectrum of people in Nigeria," the diplomat said.

Other members include former Zambian Legal Affairs Minister Roger Chonwe, a former chief justice of Zimbabwe and Trinidadian Neville Linton, a former Commonwealth secretariat official who is to serve as secretary of the team.

"The rest of the team is expected in the next couple of days," the diplomat said.

Kris Aquino baptizes son in media glare

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Former President Corason Aquino snubbed the baptism of the son of her daughter Kris, who is living with a married actor nearly twice her age. Mrs. Aquino has vehemently opposed her daughter's romance with actor Philip Salvador. He is seeking annulment of his marriage to his Filipino wife, who now lives in New York. "We just want a peaceful baptism, please," Salvador pleaded to a horde of reporters, photographers and television crews who flocked to the Santuario De San Antonio Church in Forbes Park, a wealthy enclave in suburb Makati City. Ms. Aquino cradled her month-old son, Joshua Phillip Anthony Joseph, as she tried to keep the harsh camera lights away from him. "He's very healthy," she told reporters. "But, you know, the lights are going to bother him." An elder sister, Viel, was the only one of Kris' four siblings who attended the baptism. Mrs. Aquino has said she could accept her new grandson, but she refuses to acknowledge Salvador. Kris Aquino, the youngest child, left the family home in November last year already three months pregnant, creating a scandal for Mrs. Aquino, a devout Catholic who has stressed the "sanctity of marriage" and made no secret of her dislike for her daughter's lover. Kris Aquino went back home for the first time shortly after she delivered the baby in June to show him to the other members of her family.

Pavarotti, father return to the scene of inspiration

LLANGOLLEN, Wales (AP) — Luciano Pavarotti and his father returned Friday to the Welsh town where a performance 40 years ago set the young tenor on the road to operatic stardom. Eighteen-year-old Luciano and his father, Fernando, sang together at the 1955 Llangollen International Music Festival as members of the choir from their home town of Modena, Italy, which won the competition. "When people ask what is the most memorable day in my life I always say it was when I won the competition, because it was with all my friends," Pavarotti told a delighted crowd from the stage at Llangollen. His father, now 83, was at his side. The choir's victory and the atmosphere of the festival was the spark that inspired Pavarotti to give up his planned career as a teacher and become a professional tenor. He said singing in the competition interfered with studies for his teaching exams. "The exam was a disaster — but believe me, I would do the same again," he grinned. "Many people came to see and hear us prepare. They said if you are lucky you will come 12th," because those judges wouldn't give away the first prize. "I said to my father 'papa, if we sing like that we will win'." "You know the rest" he added. Both Pavarottis will sing again Sunday night with members of the Modena Choir.

Experts to dig up infamous killer cowboy's remains

LIBERTY, Missouri (AP) — Scientists hope that digging up the bones in the grave of cowboy outlaw legend Jesse James will settle the mysteries surrounding the death of the frontier legend. A Circuit Court Judge approved the exhumation of James' remains, granting law and forensic sciences Professor James Starrs from George Washington University permission to examine the skeleton. The investigation is aimed at finding out if the body is indeed James' and if so, how he was shot. According to legend, the infamous robber died April 3, 1882 in St. Joseph, Missouri when a member of his gang, B.B. Ford, reportedly shot him in the head to collect a reward. Mystery has surrounded the question of whether it really was James who was shot and whether Ford was the sole gunman or if his brother shot him at the same time. Starrs, who will lead a 15-member team, will have to dig up the remains by August, and rebury them within 90 days. The grave is located in Kearney, northwest of Kansas City.

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Greenpeace again urges France to review resumption of nuclear tests

PARIS (Agencies) — The environmental group Greenpeace, its protest ship Rainbow Warrior, is again urging President Jacques Chirac to reconsider his decision to resume nuclear testing.

"We are asking you today to hear not only the voice of a handful of citizens aboard a ship of peace, but the immense emotion of millions of people across the world," Greenpeace said in an open letter to France's new president.

The journey of Rainbow Warrior to the Mururoa Atoll has become a centre-piece for worldwide protests against Mr. Chirac's decision to conduct eight final nuclear tests between September and next May.

The ship is expected to arrive at Mururoa within the next 24 hours, in time to mark the 10th anniversary of its predecessor's sinking by French secret agents in New Zealand on July 10, 1985.

The vessel's 26-member crew has told Mr. Chirac that his decision could set off a chain-reaction, with other nuclear powers following suit to modernise their weapons and other countries being encouraged to embark on a nuclear programme.

"That would indeed be a very black day in the history of humanity," the crew said in its four-paragraph letter.

Greenpeace has been told by French authorities not to enter a 12-mile zone around

Mururoa. On a previous protest mission in a 12-mile zone around Mururoa. On a previous protest mission in 1992, a Greenpeace vessel was boarded and the crew deported.

A French warship which had been shadowing the protesters sailed away Friday, but Admiral Philippe Evrard told a news conference at Mururoa that the surveillance ship Vendémiaire was now tracking it.

He said the navy would wait until the Rainbow Warrior was well inside the 12-mile zone and then divert it without force. The operation, "Nautile 95", would use up to four ships, depending on Greenpeace's willingness to cooperate, he said.

"We know that the French authorities have more resources than Greenpeace, but on our side we have the strength of international opinion and the commitment and creativity of our team," Greenpeace campaigner Stephanie Mills said in a statement from the Rainbow Warrior.

Ms. Mills had told Reuters earlier that the crew, apprehensive as the ship approached the atoll, had spent the day training and preparing for their arrival.

Greenpeace declined to spell out what its plan of action was, but Ms. Mills said the ship was capable of staying at sea for another two months.

In New Zealand a service

was held Saturday to commemorate the bombing of the original Rainbow Warrior in Auckland's Marsden Wharf, which killed the photographer Fernando Pereira.

Further commemorative events were due to be held Monday in Auckland and in Paris, where Greenpeace has rented a boat moored on the River Seine in front of the Foreign Ministry.

A German deputy from the coalition Free Democratic Party (FDP) has advocated a boycott of French state enterprises to protest France's decision to resume nuclear testing, the Bild Am Sonntag newspaper to be published Sunday reports.

In an interview with the Sunday tabloid, FDP parliamentarian Olaf Feldmann rejected boycotting private companies, which he said would merely hit individuals, but proposed instead a boycott on public companies, which would hit an intended target.

"The boycott of large enterprises like Air France or the Renault group makes perfect sense," Mr. Feldmann said.

While the German government has adopted a moderate line, a Forsa poll published Friday found 95 per cent of Germans oppose the French move.

Only 50 per cent of those, however, would be prepared to forgo French products and holidays in France, to protest the tests.

Kashmir militants kidnap another tourist

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Suspected Muslim rebels on Saturday kidnapped a German tourist near the hill resort town of Pahalgam, four days after two Britons and two Americans were abducted from a nearby spot, police said here.

The German embassy confirmed the abduction saying the tourist was Dirk Haret, who was in Kashmir on a trekking holiday.

"We are still trying to find out what happened. We have just been informed by Indian authorities of Haret's kidnapping," a spokesman for the embassy said.

Police said Mr. Haret and his Kashmiri guide were abducted by a group of armed men at Jogibal, some 20 kilometres south of Pahalgam. The guide was later released, they said.

No rebel group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, which took place even as the woods near Pahalgam were being combed by Indian troops searching for the four tourists abducted by Muslim militants earlier, police said.

The Indian police force Saturday despatched a special team to negotiate the release of the tourists.

An official said in Srinagar that the team was camping in the hill resort town of Pahalgam, some 100 kilometres from here, where the four were seized while on a trekking holiday.

He however said the team had failed to establish contact with the rebel Al-Faraj group which claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

"We are aware that the tourists have been spotted," he said on condition of anonymity. "But we will not take any step which could endanger their lives."

"We will try to persuade the abductors to set them free," he said.

Chechen independence to be voted on

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechens will be able to decide for themselves whether they want independence from Russia during upcoming elections, negotiators here said Saturday.

Arkady Volsky, one of the Russian negotiators at talks in the Chechen capital Grozny, said the rebel Chechen government's demand for independence "can not be decided at this table, it should be decided by the results of elections. The people should decide it."

Mr. Volsky said there would be no referendum on sovereignty because the Russian constitution does not provide for that, and Chechenya is still part of the Russian Federation.

But pro-independence candidates could run in the election for president of the tiny Caucasus republic, effectively making the vote a poll on Chechenya's status, Mr. Volsky said.

"That's democracy," he said.

No date was set for the elections.

There was no statement on whether President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who unilaterally declared Chechenya independent in 1991 and led the seven-month war against Russian forces since last December, could participate in elections.

Peace talks aimed at ending the seven-month war in Chechenya reopened Saturday after almost collapsing in the wake of the massacre of a Chechen family, allegedly by Russian soldiers.

"The peace talks have not broken," said Ahmed Zakayev, one of the Chechen independence government's negotiators.

"We do not have the right to jeopardise the process and the Chechen people because of one incident. The peace talks have to go on, some kind of compromise has to be found and the war has to end," Mr. Zakayev told AFP.

The talks almost fell apart Friday after six people, all from the same family, were shot dead at their home in an eastern suburb of Grozny. A seventh victim, a 32-year-old woman, was in critical condition in hospital.

The six, including a three-year-old girl, were buried Saturday, amid continuing anti-Russian demonstrations in Grozny.

There was a near riot Friday when several thousand Chechens held a demonstration around the bodies, which were brought into central Grozny. The head Chechen negotiator, Usman Imaev, told the angry crowd that negotiations would end entirely if those responsible for the massacre were not found by evening.

He later said that talks would break off for at least a day in protest.

However on Saturday, the full Chechen and Russian delegations returned to the office of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is mediating the talks, saying that an intensive search for the culprits had been launched by Russian authorities.

The Chechen negotiators, including military commander General Aslan Maskhadov and Mr. Imaev, also drove to the scene in a convoy of cars flying the green, white and red rebel Chechen flag.

Traffic halted and passersby shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) as the convoy sped through the ruins of Grozny, captured by Russian forces after almost seven weeks of saturation bombardments in February.

People raised their fists out of car windows and whistled their support at the convoy, under the watch of Russian soldiers sitting on armoured cars.

Mr. Yeltsin pledged Saturday that the killers of the Chechen family in Grozny would be found and said he was taking personal charge of investigations into the murders, his spokesman announced.

A presidential statement, read out by Sergei Medvedev, said "the killers will definitely be arrested and put on trial."

"The murder of innocent people is a great tragedy and when the victims include children the tragedy is even greater," the presidential statement said.

Mr. Yeltsin did not rule out the possibility that this was a "terrorist act... aimed at creating anti-Russian feelings in Grozny." He urged the people of Chechenya "not to be overcome by emotion, difficult as it may be at the current time."

Only the mother, who had been out milking the family cow, survived unharmed.

A neighbour, who asked not to be named, said she had seen soldiers wearing masks get out of a Russian armoured car and go into the house. No shots were heard, indicating that the gunmen used silencers.

A crowd of about 1,500 people, mostly women in bright headscarves, walked from central Grozny to the scene of the murders, about 15 kilometres away under a baking noon sun, chanting pro-independence slogans.

Former Chirac campaign worker alleges widespread illegal financing

PARIS (AFP) — An illegal-financing scandal that has embarrassed President Jacques Chirac's party reignited Saturday with the publication of an interview of a disgruntled party worker who alleged widespread abuses.

The interview, in the left-leaning daily Liberation, appeared a day after an investigating judge arrested, then released, Louise-Yvonne Casetta, the deputy finance director of the party, the Rally For the Republic

(RPR), after a search of her office.

In the interview, Didier Delaporte, 33, who worked for Casetta from January to April, when Mr. Chirac was elected president, described Ms. Casetta as a woman who negotiated illegal donations from companies, collected the cash and then supervised its placement, often in foreign Shell-company accounts.

RPR officials could not be reached for comment Saturday.

Mr. Delaporte spoke to

Liberation after being interviewed for five hours Wednesday by the investigating judge, Eric Halphen, in a hospital.

Mr. Delaporte said he had been considering writing a book about his campaign experiences when 10 days ago, three men severely beat him up and told him: "You'd better keep your mouth shut."

The beating had the opposite effect: He contacted Judge Halphen, then Liberation.

Sri Lanka vows to fight rebels for peace

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga Saturday vowed to fight for peace in this strife-torn island as Tamil Tiger guerrillas issued fresh bomb threats against the capital Colombo.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said her government was ready to battle the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and restore peace in the embattled northern and eastern regions.

"If peace cannot be achieved by peaceful means, we will resort to any means to restore peace," Mrs. Kumar-

atunga said at the launch of a campaign called "White Lotus" to raise \$15 million for the welfare of soldiers fighting Tigers.

Her remarks came as a front organisation of the LTTE threatened to bomb Colombo if the government failed to investigate the alleged military use of civilians as human shields in the island's multi-ethnic eastern province.

The warning issued by the Eelam Force (EF) was received here by international news agencies barely 12 hours after the expiry of a

Friday night deadline set by the group for Mrs. Kumaratunga to order an inquiry into the claims.

"If the request of the Eelam Force was accepted by the government before the deadline, the bomb-planted locations will be informed immediately," said the one-page type-written EF letter sent by ordinary mail.

Police said they considered the EF a front of the LTTE and security was being tightened here. The EF had earlier accepted responsibility for last month's failed bomb

attack on Colombo International Airport.

The EF said that minority Tamils were being used by security forces to clear mine fields, a charge denied by the military. The group has warned that it had finalised arrangements to detonate "massive bombs" in the capital.

The bomb threat came amid speculation that a military advance against the LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula was imminent. The Tigers too had said that they were bracing for an attack from the military.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
صندوق الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

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Editor-in-Chief:

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Incursion unjustified

WHILE WE might understand Ankara's anxiety and its right to fight off any rebellion that threatens its national unity, we simply cannot accept Turkey's incursions into Iraqi territory at its will and pleasure. Regardless of the present chaotic situation in the north of Iraq, Turkey is duty-bound to consult with Baghdad, or the government of any country for that matter, before launching military operations in that country's sovereign territory. What we are witnessing today in the Turkish incursion into Iraq — the second in three months — is a total disregard for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. No explanation could justify an action that, no doubt, takes advantage and makes mockery of Iraq as an independent sovereign state in the region. Turkey would be better off to remain itself that the present distortion in Iraq is not going to last for ever, and that Iraq would, sooner or later, reassume its rightful role as a key player in the Middle East, much more so as a neighbour of Turkey. For all said and done, the Turkish operation in northern Iraq, notwithstanding its reasons and background, is simply adding insult to injury.

That is only one aspect of the imbroglio. The other is the stark reality that Turkey, instead of trying to engage its Kurdish minority in a dialogue to settle the root cause of the rebellion, has continued to opt for military means to address the situation. In this era, regional conflicts and internal disputes are better addressed through civilised dialogue based on respect for the rights of people to a dignified life.

The danger that lurks behind Turkey's incursions into Iraq at will is that the move will set a precedent. If the world keeps silent today over what is happening in Iraq, then it would be deprived of the moral right when another country, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere, decides to launch similar operations in foreign territory.

The Kurdish problem is an internal Turkish affair. But when an internal affair touches the fundamental principles that govern relations between states and respect for each other, then it ceases to be an internal issue.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Saturday expressed outrage at statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to the daily Davar newspaper in which he was reported to have claimed that the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty provides for the West Bank to be merged with Jordan. The paper said that Jordan has been repeatedly demanding that the Palestinians regain their homeland in Palestine and an end to Israeli occupation of all Arab lands held since 1967 including Arab Jerusalem. His Majesty King Hussein has frequently repeated that only when the Palestinians have regained their sovereignty and lands they would be able to determine their own future freely, added the paper. It said that Jordan has been striving to help the Palestinians regain their rights, including the right to independence with Arab Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital and therefore it is astonishing to hear Mr. Rabin giving such a statement which contradicts the facts on the ground. The paper also criticised the Israeli premier for declaring that Israel would not withdraw to the pre-1967 borders with Syria and Palestine, would not allow Jerusalem to be partitioned, would not allow the Palestinians to establish their own state and would not dismantle Jewish settlements. It said such statements are cause for concern and they could only undermine the whole peace process.

A WRITER in Al Dustour warned against the widening gap between the rich and the poor in Jordan, resulting from unemployment and ill planning for development. Taher Al Adwan said a visitor to Jordan would notice two extremes: the wealthy nature of Western Amman regions where some of the villas and palaces must have cost at least a million dinars each and the other parts of the country, especially the rural areas where the majority live around and under the poverty line. The unchecked sky rocketing prices of basic commodities, unemployment and low income of most of the people of Jordan are causing poverty while the absence of major income generating projects that could absorb huge numbers of unemployed Jordanians are causing deep frustration among the public, said the writer. Citing a recent World Bank report about the widening gap between the rich and the poor countries around the world, the writer said that the report pointed to the Arab region where such disparity occurs and warned that unless unemployment and poverty are dealt with in an appropriate manner, corruption will increase and public discontent with serious economic and social consequences will grow.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Privatisation: More than lip service

THE GOVERNMENT is definitely in favour of privatisation. Businessmen in the country are strongly for privatisation. Economists unambiguously support privatisation. The economic adjustment programme highlights privatisation. The five-year social and economic development plan sets privatisation high on its agenda. His Majesty the King's message designating a new prime minister, which effectively embodies the terms of reference for the new government, stresses privatisation. The ministerial programme submitted to Parliament for the vote of confidence includes a clear-cut undertaking to privatise. Yet, 15 years after the birth of the idea of privatisation, the Royal Jordanian airline (RJ) into a private shareholding company, and 10 years after the official adoption of a policy to privatise the Public Transport Corporation and the Telecommunication Corporation, nothing happened on ground, except reports and declarations of intentions, followed by more reports and more declarations.

To continue preaching privatisation and demonstrating its advantages, and proving the desirability of a true market economy are waste of time and no more needed. What we need from now on is an explanation of our failure to perform and implement a policy confirmed by countless decisions, programmes, reports, plans, studies and recommendations. There must be a strong factor preventing privatisation from taking off despite all this noise about it.

We suggest that the main reason for failure is that the Jordanian public opinion is not yet convinced that privatisation is good for the people and accordingly deserves experimentation. People think that privatisation means selling out the public sector to rich businessmen to exploit the people without any regulations or restrictions. They believe that the first step after the privatisation of a corporation is to fire the majority of the employees and workers. Finally, privatisation has the image of being

imposed upon us from without, therefore resistance to privatisation is justified as a sort of safeguarding independence.

If we are serious about fostering the role of the private sector and the market economy and making privatisation possible, we should first educate our people and convince the public opinion. Education is not only needed by the man in the street but also by deputies in Parliament, ministers in the government and journalists in the press. The majority of those groups harbour ideas and tendencies favouring the hegemony and domination of the state over economic life, including ownership and management. Perhaps no one is calling for outright socialism anymore, but the culture of socialism is still deep in many minds.

The latest report by the experts of the World Bank, who studied and evaluated the Jordanian private sector, noticed that the state has investments in many enterprises, including commercial establishments such as hotels. The impact of that is over-stretching public resources, crowding out the private sector and causing low economic efficiency.

The report came up with some new recommendations such as issuing a special law to deal with privatisation instead of having to work independently on each law organising a governmental enterprise, and the establishment of a ministry of privatisation, or an influential section in the prime ministry or in the ministry of finance to follow-up and act as an engine to push for privatisation.

Privatisation means more opportunities for the private sector, greater competition, greater efficiency and more attention by the government to its core functions in regulation and enforcement. The problem is that our public opinion is not aware of these facts and should be convinced before the government can go ahead in a serious programme of privatisation.



Lebanon: The succession to President Hrawi

By Fida Nasrallah

ON NOV. 23, 1995, Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi's term of office will end. Since January this year, political life in Lebanon has revolved around little else but speculation around the identity of Mr. Hrawi's successor. Some floated the idea of either extending the president's mandate by an additional three years (amended), or renewing his six-year term altogether (amended). Others, namely the army, pushed for the election — or rather selection — of the chief-of-staff, General Emile Lahoud.

But both President Hrawi remaining in office, either through extension or renewal, and General Emile Lahoud being elected to the presidency are contrary to the Lebanese Constitution. Indeed, article 49, Paragraph two, as amended in 1990, states "the president shall be elected for a term of six years. He may not be re-elected until six years have elapsed since the date of expiration of his last mandate." which rules Mr. Hrawi out. Paragraph three of the same article states that "it is prohibited to elect to the Presidency... first-category (senior) civil servants... as long as they are in office and until two years have elapsed since the date of resignation from their post or since the date of their retirement," which rules General Lahoud out as well.

So the whole political debate in Lebanon in the past six months has centred around the possibility of amending Article 49 of the Lebanese Constitution and the implications of this. To amend the second paragraph on its own would mean the deselection of General Lahoud; to amend paragraph three on its own would mean that President Hrawi would not be able to run again; and to amend them both would give the two candidates a chance without necessarily jeopardising the chances of any other contender.

The constant preoccupa-

tion over the identity of the next president, the virtual suspension of political life in the country, the frustration of the rising expectations of Lebanese society, the growing social unrest and the run on the Lebanese currency all led Prime Minister Rafik Hariri to push parliament for a constitutional amendment after convening an ordinary session on May 22 to extend Mr. Hrawi's mandate. The rationale behind this decision was that once the uncertainty was over, the country would then regain its equanimity and the prime minister would be able to resume his policies unimpeded. Indeed, the manner in which that uncertainty would be laid to rest and the implications of tailor-made constitutional amendments were, for Mr. Hariri, inconsequential. Thus Mr. Hariri openly called for extending President Hrawi's term of "security, and of political and financial stability." The pro-Hrawi camp openly joined the fray, stressing the need for "continuity" and praising the president for restoring state authority.

Not to be outdone, and intent on wielding his own powers, Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri decided that parliament would not be bulldozed by the government and that the legislative and executive authorities would remain separate. He decided to undertake parliamentary consultations and sound out other political and spiritual leaders, to determine how "the people" felt about extensions, renewals and constitutional amendments. As for Mr. Hrawi himself, who had initially shied away from the idea of tampering with the length of his mandate, he declared his willingness to submit to "the will of the representatives of the people" — an important declaration in the light of the fact that it was not the will of "the representative of the people" that was responsible for choosing him in the first place. The outcome of Mr. Ber-

ri's consultations, assuming of course, that they were of any consequence, reflected a lack of enthusiasm towards renewing the president's mandate and a feeling of overall resignation about the entire process. Indeed, the parliamentary bloc of former prime minister Salim Al Hoss, as well as other former prime ministers and speakers, voiced their displeasure; the Maronite Patriarch, Cardinal Nasrallah Sfeir, was equally unenthusiastic; and the supporters of General Aoun didn't care one way or the other. Some believed that an extension of the president's mandate would plunge the country into a state of confusion; others called for a new head of state in order to bring about national reconciliation; still others believed that extending the mandate of the president would be an infringement of the principle of the transfer of power and democracy. And some considered the entire selection process as fraudulent and therefore inconsequential.

This long saga resulted in a stalemate. The tug-of-war between the prime minister and the speaker resulted in an overall face-saving compromise. Mr. Hariri would resign — only to be immediately assured of reappointment with new ministers of a more cooperative nature; and Mr. Berri would win his own little battle: The Constitution would not be amended in May, but perhaps at a later date, leaving all options open for everyone and the possibility of a constitutional amendment as late as next November.

Flawed assumptions

It is a fact well-known to the Lebanese and others that the selection of a president for Lebanon is not a Lebanese decision. It is also safe to assume, given the prevailing regional configuration and the realities of the Lebanese situation, that any president that com-

es to power in the foreseeable future will toe the same line as President Hrawi. The difference is strictly a matter of personality and "experience," not one of allegiance. Nevertheless, and despite such very harsh realities, it is still important to maintain a fig-leaf transition in an otherwise imperfect and flawed "democracy." The systematic erosion of the very trappings of a democracy may in the long run result in a erosion of the democratic tradition itself. Those who are indifferent to the renewal of the president's mandate, because a change in personality will not result in a change in policy, are still preoccupied with how the international community perceives Lebanon, and herein lies their major miscalculation.

The claim that the "election" of a new president will project an image of a working democracy instead of reflecting a reality that is totally at odds with that image is valid. But the time has come to do away with concern with image and concentrate on preserving whatever is there lest it disappear altogether. Salvation for Lebanon is not going to come from the international community — not from France and certainly not from Lebanon itself. If the feelings of resignation and disillusion amongst the Lebanese are allowed to continue unchecked, and their constant search for a *deus ex machina* is their only course of action, then they are certain to lose the little that remains, and there really remains very little. Of course, all of the above rests on the assumption that "the representatives of the people" have not only "the will" but also "the power." Indeed, this assumption is flawed. And that is the tragedy of Lebanon.

The writer is deputy director of the Centre for Lebanese Studies in Oxford. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

NATO-expanders need to observe that geography is back

By Richard Cohen

ISTANBUL — Could it be that geography, not demography, is destiny? This ancient city, where Europe stages a stunning finale before plunging into the Bosphorus, both dazies and intrigues. As the Clinton administration will discover in attempting to expand NATO, in foreign affairs — as in real estate — location is what really matters.

Europeans, of course, already know that. In Greece, for instance, I was asked by one foreign policy expert about the expansion of NATO and waxed Lippmannesque for a moment or two before the clearly impatient think-tanker cut me off: Didn't I understand? The countries slated for early NATO membership are all in "the German sphere of influence."

I confess to not having seen things that way. It is true, of course, that the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia were all, to one extent or another, in the German-speaking sphere of influence — one, incidentally, that predated the Nazi period and was as much cultural as it was political. Franz Kafka, that morose Czech, lived in Prague but wrote in German, as did numerous other Central and East Europeans, whatever their nominal nationality.

It is not likely that Europe will return totally to its old ways of thinking and doing. But at least in this region, more and more people seem to assume that the old days are coming back — and with them the old ways of looking at the world. Greek businessmen are hopping planes for Tirana, the Albanian capital, trying to restore traditional trading patterns. The northern Greek city of Salonika is once again being seen as a financial and commercial centre for Bulgaria and Romania.

With the end of the cold war, geography is once again reasserting itself. Greece is back in the Balkans — and don't think Turkey hasn't noticed.

But the debate over expanding NATO proceeds as if the old cold war verities still applied and the old rules of geography remained suspended. In strategic terms, London was once accorded as much importance as San Francisco, Bonn with New York, Paris with Rome and Davenport, Iowa. What did it matter? Attack one and you have attacked the other.

As long as godless communism was the enemy, that could work. But Americans, too, are creatures of

geography. From Kansas City, it is not only a long way to Tipperary, it is even farther to Bratislava, the grim capital of Slovakia. How is the Clinton administration, which wants NATO expanded, going to explain to some guy in Kansas the strategic importance of Bratislava? Most Americans probably think Bratislava is a sausage.

Usually, NATO expansion is debated in connection with Russia: How will it react? My question is different: How will the American people react? Does the United States really want to get involved in quarrels in which it has no stake? Bosnia is a day at the beach compared with the Caucasus or the traditional problems between Romania and Hungary.

Hitler and Stalin together did an absolutely superb job at tidying up Central and Eastern Europe, but even they left minorities lingering in most countries. In each and every country, a problem of sorts remains. They are all interesting and sometimes they are painful, but it is hard to connect any of them to anything approximating the American national interest.

The imperatives of geography are once again taking hold. As before the cold war (and World War II), Americans see themselves as being in the middle of nowhere, a shrinking world notwithstanding. Europeans, on the other hand, once again see themselves as being in the middle of everywhere.

They are again finding themselves creatures of their own geography and, in a sense, blowing the dust off old texts to see how things were handled in the past. Poorly, would have to be the conclusion, but may be inevitably so.

The case for retaining NATO and expanding it is well worth arguing, although the latter has me more worried than excited. But such a case has not yet been made to the American people, not by the White House anyway, and certainly not by expansion advocates who brandish Chamberlain's umbrella and yell "neoisolationist" at their critics.

The blessings of geography traditionally enabled America to avoid the insane feuds of the Old World. The world has shrunk, sure, but given the demise of the Soviet Union, what is the new "politico" that compels Americans to give up their "geo" advantage?

If there is an answer to that question — and there will be — the Clinton administration has yet to provide it.

The Washington Post

LETTERS

Liabilities

To the Editor:

THE MOTOR vehicle is man's most deadly machine. The owner or operator of an automobile is under duty to exercise utmost due care so as to avoid injuring himself and other innocent people accompanying him or in his vicinity. That degree of care, which must be exercised, is that of the ordinary prudent person under the circumstances.

Under automobile liability insurance, the insurance company is under legal obligation to pay damages on behalf of the insured for bodily injury, sickness or disease, including resulting death, sustained by third persons in addition, the injury to or destruction of property belonging to any third person, including loss of use thereof.

Our country has a bad record for automobile accidents. A chief reason that explains the constantly rising automobile death rate is the increase in the power and speed potential of present-day automobiles. Other reasons include unskilled driving, undisciplined desires, smoking, congestion, increased mileage, urbanisation, changing age of the population, extended and uncontrolled working hours and the absence of right to refuse hazardous work.

As ever before, we continue to rely on the three E's for lowering automobile death rates. The three E's are: (1) driver-pedestrian education, (2) highway and vehicle engineering, (3) improvement in laws and better law enforcement.

George N. Saig,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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U.N. vital to U.S. interests, former ambassadors say

By Judy Alta
USIA

SAN FRANCISCO — The United Nations is crucial to U.S. foreign policy and indispensable to U.S. participation in world affairs, four former chief U.S. delegates to the world organization say.

The United Nations has "plenty of room for improvement," says Ambassador Thomas Pickering, but it is "the least worst organization around... to deal with peaceful settlement of disputes, economic development, and social and human rights issues."

"We are engaged in the world, and despite the mounting sense of isolationism one perceives in the United States, our future is increasingly tied with the world... We are going to be involved in the world, the United Nations is part of that," says Mr. Pickering, who was U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations from 1989 to 1992 under President Bush. Currently ambassador to Russia, he was also U.S. ambassador to El Salvador,

Nigeria, Jordan and Israel. He and three other former U.S. envoys to the United Nations participated in a panel on "Redefining Security: The United Nations, the United States," one of a series of events leading up to the commemoration of the signing of the U.N. Charter on June 26, 1945, in San Francisco.

Their discussion, which took place in the same theatre where the U.N. Charter was signed by representatives of 50 states five decades ago, centred on the preservation and strengthening of the organization for the next 50 years, especially in light of the increasing criticism of the United Nations in recent months as Congress tries to balance the U.S. budget and the 1996 presidential campaign gets underway.

"I cannot consider a world without the United Nations. It is inconceivable. If there wasn't one, you would have to invent something," said Ambassador Vernon Walters, whose diplomatic career began in

the 1940s and included a tour at the United Nations from 1985 to 1989 under President Reagan. Mr. Walters was also ambassador to Germany and served as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"People in the United States perceive the United Nations as having a being of its own," Mr. Walters explained. "Yet, everybody around this table knows the United Nations is what the members make it. We make its life; we make its decisions in the end."

Ambassador Donald McHenry, U.N. representative from 1978 to 1981 under President Carter and currently University Research professor of diplomacy and international affairs at Georgetown University, said "the United States has to make some decisions about our leadership in the world organization."

He pointed out that in its difficult early days the U.N. "was able to survive and prosper because of American leadership in an innovative and almost pater-

nal way. The U.N. had financial problems from almost the very beginning, but the United States recognized from the outset that our annual payment was so important that it not only had to be paid but paid at the beginning of the year or the organization couldn't survive."

Now, with the end of the cold war, the United Nations has been asked to take on more responsibilities in peacekeeping, economic development and social issues, a transition that is complicated, costly, and at times not successful. It has generated much discussion in the U.S. Congress, the Clinton administration, the press and American public. Now the United States not only does not pay its dues at the beginning of the year, it has become the organization's biggest debtor, owing about \$1,800 million this year for peacekeeping operations alone.

But, said Mr. McHenry, "Stop the World I Want to Get Off" is the name of a play. We can't stop the world and get off anything in 1995. It is an indication

of the acceleration of the interaction, interrelationship between the United States and the rest of the world... This time of transition is a time that vision and leadership is most needed."

"Fortunately, I think, the American public is more attuned to this fact than some of our leaders" he said, citing polling data. "Asked if they are in favour of multilateral actions, the answer comes back 'yes'... Does it frighten them if they don't have an American commander of U.S. troops in a U.N. operation? The answer comes back 'no'. In almost every instance... they are far more supportive of the United Nations than some of our politicians."

Ambassador Edward Perkins, U.S. envoy to Australia and a former envoy to South Africa, served at the U.N. from 1992 to 1993. He agreed that "if we didn't have the organization we would have to invent something like it."

The United Nations "will not always be in accord with the self-interest of the U.S."

nor should it," Mr. Perkins said. "But there always has to be a perceived commonality which stretches beyond the sometimes narrow constraints of national interest, because what is national interest today may be an international interest tomorrow or vice versa."

"We have to realize that we have to interact and exist and cooperate with a much wider array of countries and peoples. That's not going to decrease, that's going to increase."

The ambassadors agreed that serious fiscal and organizational reforms are needed at the U.N., but Mr. Pickering said he thought a consensus for streamlining the U.N. administration "could be readily built."

The end of the cold war and the decline in North-South polarization in the past five years, he said, offer the United States "enormous opportunities for leadership."

"It is not a fundamentally bad organization. We helped design it, and in designing it we have pro-

vided ourselves with certain leadership advantages," he pointed out. "We have a larger share of the budget we're comfortable with, but plays both ways — plus and minus. We have a very, very strong position in (U.N. headquarters at) New York and importantly in the Security Council. We are the host for the most fundamental and significant organs of the United Nations."

Mr. Pickering noted that in the past five years the United Nations has been successful in areas crucial to U.S. policy, such as in Kuwait and Haiti. "So it provides us with an opportunity for international leadership which we shouldn't miss," he said.

"If we had to design a new organization, we might not get one that overall was quite so friendly to our leadership in the future as we have seen evolve in the United Nations... And we have the opportunity to improve the United Nations in the future and in ways that will not be inimicable to our interests or uncomfortable to our leadership."

Tales of lies and believers

By Sa'ad Hattar

SOME TELL white lies and others tell technicolor lies. There are private lies and official lies, and each of the forementioned must have a believer on the receiving end.

So to believe or not to believe, that is not the question... for the answer remains in the hands of policy makers. Indeed, people in this country are the last to know... and they are the last to come to grips with the blunders brought about by policy makers.

After months of uncertainty and ill-planning in the stagnant car market our minister of finance comes up with a solid declaration: "The duties and customs on imported vehicles are not going to drop. Those were merely baseless rumours."

Thank you your excellency, as you have just confirmed, beyond any doubt, that custom rates are due to take a dive. Based on previous statements by policy-makers, people have grown to anticipate the other side of official declarations.

Although such statements imply good intentions, and could be warranted by car dealers, whose business had plunged against a backdrop of continued uncertainty and expectations, they should not mislead people for two reasons: The truth always prevails and the wire of trust between successive governments and the people would eventually be cut off. Only last October, our minister of finance then declared that tariffs were not bound to be reduced, seemingly putting an end to ongoing rumours about a projected drop in tariffs.

A few weeks later, an official decision discredited that statement by announcing a tariff drop.

That minister's statement, which contradicted the stark truth, has caused damage to many people who had taken his word at face value. And instead of shoring up the crumbling car dealing business, this market went idle, thanks to fresh rumours about new reductions in tariffs.

So what do we expect now?

In conformity with the Kingdom's drive to join GATT towards the end of 1996, tariffs on imported goods have to be reduced to fall within GATT criteria. While looming, step remains a prerequisite before such a move, the government sought to keep a tight lid on this issue, leaving people's expectations to shift into imaginations amidst mushrooming rumours.

This equation of contradicting public statements is rather more damaging than silence itself. It brings to mind an old joke. A man, sporting a twelve-calibre shotgun and his conspicuously "pregnant" daughter, knocks at the door of her lover. With the gun pointed at him the lover says: "But Kathy we agreed to keep our affair secret."

The bomb: The test of the first atomic weapon 50 years ago

By Sid Moody
The Associated Press

WHEN IT was over that July 16, 1945, the man who had led the development of the bomb walked into the desert to reflect.

A turtle miles away from the world's first atomic explosion had been flipped helplessly on its back by the shock wave. J. Robert Oppenheimer set it right side up.

"It was the least I could do," he said.

That test, called Trinity, of a plutonium bomb capped a \$2 billion — unprecedented in those times — effort conducted in secrecy.

Maj. Gen. Leslie Groves, overall boss of this so-called Manhattan Project, predicted — correctly — that two atomic bombs would stun Japan into surrender and end World War II.

But in Trinity's mammoth, violent, roiling flames mankind had never seen before, erupted moral questions still debated.

"Now we're all sons-of-bitches," said Trinity's Director, Kenneth Bainbridge, as the fire from the heart of the atom flashed across the New Mexico desert.

The light, brighter at its core than the sun, was seen 400 kilometres away.

"What was that?" a blind girl 88.5 kilometres away asked as the heat flushed her face.

The bomb's identical twin, nicknamed Fat Man, was to ravage Nagasaki just over three weeks hence. Their uranium cousin, Little Boy, destroyed Hiroshima Aug. 6.

Hundreds of thousands of Japanese were killed or died from the

effects. But also millions of lives, Japanese and American, had been spared by ending the war, soon to be climaxed with the invasion of Japan itself.

An equation of madness? or mercy?

Trinity culminated a gigantic scientific and industrial steepclimb to produce tiny amounts of fissionable uranium-235 and plutonium that could be carried in a suitcase. Fueling the urgency was the fear that the Germans, first to split the atom, would make a bomb first. But Hitler had lost the war before an American-British weapon was ready. Japan, her wood and paper cities largely in ashes, was nonetheless still fighting with ferocity.

Theoretically, the uranium bomb was straightforward enough to be dropped without a test. Fat Man was more complex: Precisely shaped charges imploding inward to compress in milliseconds a sphere of plutonium not much bigger than a grapefruit beyond critical mass to explode instantly in a frenzy of energy-releasing neutrons. Theoretically.

Trinity, sited in a desert of south-central New Mexico north of Alamogordo, was to be proof, in effect the world's largest lab test.

For months, the leading scientists of the free world had been testing, tinkering, thinking in the desolation of the desert, Jornada del Muerto, trail of the dead man.

The bomb itself rested atop a 30-metre tower. The bomb was intended to kill by blast rather than radiation, hence the need to interpolate the effects at altitude. Spherical, a little taller than a man, Fat Man looked like a woman under

a hair dryer at the beauty parlor with wires and knobs all over it. Some of its explosive lenses were held in place with adhesive tape.

The scientific "long hairs" worked through nights to correct glitches. Explosives expert George Kistiakowsky picked at cast-imperfections with dental tools.

Others argued whether the bomb should be used at all.

But first Trinity had to prove Fat Man would work.

As the scientists gathered at the site, they opened a betting pool estimating the force of the explosion. With his \$1 ante Edward Teller, who was to become a major innovator of the later hydrogen bomb, picked highest: 45,000 tonnes (45 kilotons) of TNT. Mr. Oppenheimer picked 300, Canadian John Williams 200 pounds and Harvard physicist Norman Ramsey went low: zero. Latecomer Isidor I. Rabi, who had just won a Nobel prize, arrived in the desert and settled for the last number: 18 kilotons.

Jornada del Muerto had come alive with kilometres of cables, strung from yuccas where poles weren't available, bunkers, dials, gauges, plus 145 kilometres of roads. Twenty teams fanned out in villages and hamlets to measure fallout should hasty evacuation be needed.

Alvin and Elizabeth Graves moved into cabin 4 at Miller's tourist court in Carrizozo, population 1,400 and 64 kilometres northeast of ground zero, and set up geiger counters and a seismograph. Graves suspended all air traffic south from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and told the governor he might have to de-

clare martial law. He prepared a cover story that a remote ammunition dump including poison gas shells had exploded, requiring mass evacuation.

GIS of the special engineering detachment made a gallow's joke that Fat Man, generally referred to as "The Gadget" or "The Thing," would knock the Earth off its axis.

Enrico Fermi, the Italian who had pioneered the first controlled nuclear chain reaction in December 1942, gazed over the desert on July 15 at "the world on the eve of its disintegration." The man who had opened a new world with aid of his 15-centimetre slide rule, did not believe this would happen. He planned to shred bits of paper to measure the blast by how far the shock wave blew them.

Always everywhere, living off coffee and cigarettes, his cadaverous frame shrunk to 53 kilograms from the strain, was Oppenheimer, cajoling, encouraging, advising. Between atoms, Oppie, a student of Sanskrit, pondered the ancient Indian poem, the Bhagavad-Gita, or read (He had named Trinity while reading John Donne's line: "Batter my heart, three-person'd God...").

Two days before Trinity, on July 14, two U.S. army officers, Maj. Robert Furman, a Groves aide, and Capt. James Nolan, the Los Alamos obstetrician, escorted by seven carloads of security guards, signed a receipt for three crates at Los Alamos, the remote facility 225 kilometres to the north where the bombs were devised.

The load was put in a closed black truck, driven to Kirtland air base outside

Albuquerque, put on two DC-3s and flown to San Francisco. Little Boy had begun its journey to Tinian, the huge B-29 base in the Marianas.

Beyond New Mexico, U.S. warships were shelling the Japanese coast with impunity. Fifteen-hundred planes that day added to the thunder. Australian troops landed in Borneo. The fighting for Okinawa was just over, taking some 200,000 American, Japanese and Okinawan lives. Churchill, Truman and Stalin were sitting down to a final big three conference at Potsdam outside Berlin.

At Trinity, all this was an afterthought. Thunderstorms had swept over the site after midnight on the 16th, threatening a delay because of adverse winds.

Groves, a single-minded driver of little charm but vast ego and determination, inclined to go ahead. Obsessed over security, he feared postponement would inevitably lead to leaks. But he agreed to move firing later, from 4 a.m. (nighttime had been chosen both to cause the least notice and for better photographic contrast for cameras).

But as rain pelted down, he sent Kistiakowsky, Weatherman Jack Hubbard and some MPs to the tower as a precaution against sabotage. They relieved Don Hornig, a young physicist who had been nervously baby-sitting Fat Man in a steel shed atop the tower, trying to concentrate on tropical idylls of "desert island decameron" while lightning flashed outside.

Kistiakowsky had to climb halfway up the tower to flash a light so spotlights could focus on it. Hubbard's men released weather

er balloons every 15 minutes, while Lt. Howard Bush, head of the MPs, fingered his Tommy gun in the rain and wondered how he'd ever become involved in this mess.

At 4 a.m. the rain slackened. Bainbridge shook awake young Joseph McKibben, who had accompanied the party to the tower and dozed off. McKibben was to run the countdown. "Come on, Joe. It's time now."

Across Jornada del Muerto, switches began to be closed. At 5:10 a.m., Sam Allison began intoning the count over a clamorous rendition of "the star-spangled banner" as station KCBA in Delano, California, began its broadcast day over the same frequency. At three camps 9.2 km from the tower scientists and VIPs put on welders' glasses.

As the count ran down, automatic timers took over. But Allison continued counting "5... 4... 3... 2... 1..." then he threw his microphone from him and screamed "zero."

And at 5:29:45 a.m. mountain war time, humanity entered a new world. In Arizona, 240 kilometres away, a mystified woman tried to explain why she saw "the sun come up and go down again."

As he watched the swelling fireball never seen before by man, Oppenheimer thought of the Bhagavad-Gita. "I am death-the shatterer of worlds."

Fermi scattered his papers as the shock wave visibly approached and estimated the explosion at 20 kilotons. (Close but Rabi at 18 kilotons won the pot and \$102).

An awed Charles Tho-

mas of the Monsanto Chemical Company shouted to physicist Ernest Lawrence that they had just seen the greatest happening in history. "Buddy," said a soldier behind them, "you just saw the end of the war."

In Carrizozo, the Graves' cabin trembled. By afternoon their geiger counter clacked off the scale as a 160-by-48 kilometre blanket of radioactivity arrived. Groves was about to evacuate the town, but the readings soon subsided.

Newsrooms were swamped with callers wondering what happened. The Associated Press in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but out Groves' release.

George Harrison, president of the New York Life Insurance Co. and a member of president Truman's interim committee, pondering what to do about the bomb, wired from Washington to Henry Stimson in Potsdam: "Doctor has just returned and most enthusiastic and confident that the Little Boy is as husky as his big brother. The light in his eyes discernible from here to highhold and I could have heard his screams from here (Washington) to my farm."

Highhold was Stimson's Long Island estate 386 kilometres from Washington and Harrison's Virginia farm was 80 kilometres, the distances Fat Man was seen and heard.

At Potsdam, Truman took Stalin aside and told him the United States had just tested a weapon of unusually destructive force. The Soviet dictator, whose British-naturalised spy and Los Alamos physicist, Klaus Fuchs, had witnessed Trinity, said only: "I hope you make good use of it."

Dutch soldier killed in Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

Thursday when its watch tower was destroyed by two tank shells, a U.N. spokesman said.

Dutch peacekeepers remained at another U.N. observation post nearby Saturday.

Some 40,000 people live in the Srebrenica enclave, one of six U.N. safe areas in Bosnia ostensibly protected under a Security Council resolution. Under this resolution peacekeepers are authorised in self-defence to call for airstrikes or use force in reply to bombardment of the safe area of the town or of themselves.

Meanwhile the Bosnian Serbs, in an apparent breakthrough on the delivery of aid to Sarajevo, agreed to a request from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to deliver some 300 tonnes of food next week.

Aid deliveries to the Bosnian capital have been limited to a few hundred tonnes in the last two months while the city needs 6,000 tonnes of aid a month, officials said. The Serbs have blocked deliveries using a number of pretexts.

In recent days, under

pressure to get food into the capital, U.N. peacekeepers began sneaking food convoys along a dangerous mountain road under cover of darkness. The road, which is also used by the Bosnian army for its supplies, is regularly attacked by Serb gunners.

"There has been an apparent breakthrough for Sarajevo," UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski said in announcing that the first convoy was planned for next Tuesday and would use a road through Bosnian Serb-held territory which rings the capital.

The move appeared aimed at undermining the growing determination of the peacekeeping force to bring food into the capital using the Igman route despite the dangers and the risk of confrontation with the Serbs.

On Friday, French President Jacques Chirac told Serbia President Slobodan Milosevic that the chief Anglo-French rapid reaction force of well armed combat-ready troops currently deploying in Bosnia would be used to "guarantee" the delivery of aid along the Igman route.

Iraqis flee Turkish incursion

(Continued from page 1)

Seven members of the security forces and 13 rebels died in different clashes in eastern Turkish provinces on Saturday, security officials said.

Three helicopters flew over the eastern town of Tunceli all day to ferry about 1,000 troops towards suspected rebel positions in the nearby mountains, witnesses said. Three rebels and four soldiers were killed in fighting in Tunceli province.

Turkey to extend amnesty

Turkey is expected to extend for two months an amnesty law for repentant

Kurdish rebels, security officials said.

The law, which expired on Friday, allows PKK members who have not taken part in acts of violence to avoid prosecution if they surrender.

Guerrillas who have carried out attacks get a lighter sentence if they give themselves up.

Anatolian news agency quoted Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's office on Friday as saying a bill outlining an extension of the amnesty had been sent to the cabinet.

The agency said about 200 PKK members had surrendered and taken advantage of the amnesty in recent months.

Egypt rejects mediation with Sudan

(Continued from page 1)

the threat and said Mr. Toubabi's views were personal, not official.

Sudanese Interior Minister Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammed Khair, said in parliament Tuesday that if Egyptian forces continued to attack Sudanese police in Halaib, Sudan would no longer feel obligated to its accord with Egypt, including the Nile agreement.

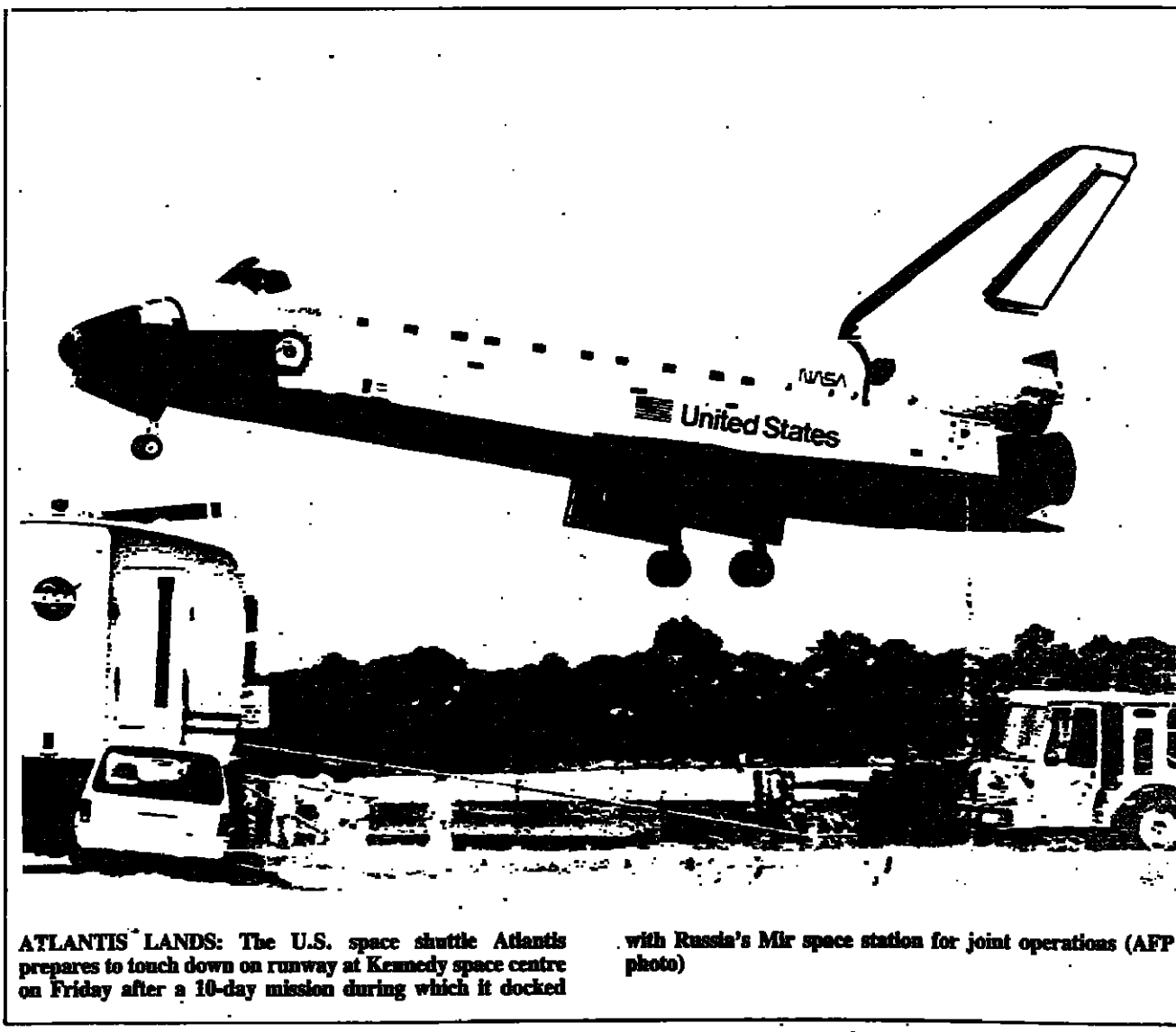
The pro-government Egyptian weekly Akhbar Al Youm reported in its latest issue Egypt is preparing a major

reconstruction project in the Halaib region.

The Egyptian authorities "wish to carry out the reconstruction of Halaib which is fully a part of Egypt," the paper quoted Prime Minister Atef Sedki as saying.

Ministers are to meet on Monday to discuss "an overall plan for the reconstruction of the triangle of Halaib and Shalatin" along the Red Sea, Akhbar Al Youm said.

The plan envisages the provision of public utilities including water, electricity and communications.



ATLANTIS LANDS: The U.S. space shuttle Atlantis prepares to touch down on runway at Kennedy space centre on Friday after a 10-day mission during which it docked

with Russia's Mir space station for joint operations (AFP photo)

Jordan, France to resume talks on terms for debt relief

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and French officials will resume negotiations on terms for a 375 million French francs (about JD 50 million) debt relief offered by the French government in the form of investments in the Kingdom, officials said Saturday.

The way for the resumption of the negotiations — which were launched early this year following the signing of an agreement in September — was cleared after His Majesty King Hussein met with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris last month.

The September agreement, signed in Paris by the then finance minister, Sami Gammoh, and his French counterpart, provides for a discounted rate for 375 million francs, part of the Jordanian debts to France, for investments in Jordan.

Under the proposed exchange, investors interested in Jordan can pay the discounted rate in foreign currency to the French government and receive the full amount in convertible Jordanian dinars for investment in the Kingdom.

The sticking point is a difference between Amman and Paris over the "redemption" rate of the debt. Amman is seeking a minimum of 50 per cent while Paris is holding out for 30 per cent, according to sources familiar with the negotiations.

In comments carried by the local press on Saturday, Michael Marto, a deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, said Jordan remained highly hopeful that the Paris negotiations would produce "positive results."

According to French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajole, the snag came "because it is technocrats who are negotiating the issue."

"The political will is there on the part of the French government to extend assistance to Jordan," Mr. Bajole affirmed during a recent press conference. The ambassador said France felt that Jordan's debts "are a good risk" and thus it did not want to "go too down" in the negotiations.

The ambassador also indicated that there were enough investors who were interested in Jordan to buy

the discounted debts.

"That is not a problem at all," he said. "We have enough investors who are ready to buy the debts once the French treasury and the Central Bank of Jordan reach an agreement," he said.

One of the potential investors is the French hotel group ACCOR, which is discussing several hotel projects in Jordan with local groups.

France holds about \$600 million of Jordan's debts. The bulk of the debts have already been rescheduled after the Kingdom reached an accord with the Paris Club of creditor governments in June 1994. The French agreement for the so-called "debt-equity" swap proposal was also made at the same meeting with the Paris Club.

Ambassador Bajole said it was unlikely that the French government, which wrote off \$5 million of Jordan's debts last year, would extend further debt cancellation to the Kingdom.

Instead, he said, the French government was seeking to help Jordan through developing the Kingdom's economy.

World Bank head visits S. Arabia

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — World Bank president James Wolfensohn has arrived here for talks with officials on the bank's role in the development of the Arab region, the official SPA news agency said Saturday.

Mr. Wolfensohn, an American, arrived in this western city late Friday, SPA said.

He will discuss Saudi Arabia's role as one of the bank's financiers, including bilateral cooperation and funding of the International Development Association (IDA), the branch which provides loans to the poorest countries, the bank said in Washington.

The IDA is in danger of losing part of its funding in coming years, particularly that provided by the United States.

After Saudi Arabia, the World Bank president is to visit the Gaza Strip and meet with PLO chief Yasser Arafat. He will also visit Palestinian development projects in Gaza, the bank said.

The World Bank has announced a 20-million-dollar loan for education and sanitation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Markets rally after first U.S. rate cut in three years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first U.S. interest rate cut in nearly three years sparked a rally in stock and bond markets, which saw the move as a potential boost for a slowing national economy.

After the Federal Reserve — the U.S. central bank — announced the cut Thursday, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 48.77 to close at a record 4,664.

Strong demand for bonds pushed the yield on treasury's 30-year bond down to 6.49 per cent, compared to a previous close of 6.60 per cent. "As a result of the monetary tightening initiated in early 1994, inflationary pressures have receded enough to accommodate a modest adjustment in monetary conditions," Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan said in a statement.

Bank of America, the second-largest U.S. bank, cut its prime lending rate by a quarter point and others were expected to follow suit.

The prime, the benchmark for millions of business and consumer loans, fell from 9 per cent down to 8.75 per cent.

Earlier Thursday, the U.S. Commerce Department re-

ported that its chief forecasting gauge of economic activity fell for a fourth straight month in May. Often, but not always, three or more consecutive declines in the index of leading indicators signals an impending recession.

The Fed announced it was cutting its target for the federal funds rate from 6 per cent down to 5.75 per cent. This is the rate banks charge each other for overnight loans.

From Feb. 4, 1994, to this Feb. 1, the Fed doubled the funds rate from 3 per cent to 6 per cent in an effort to achieve a "soft landing" in which economic growth slows enough to contain price pressures without a recession.

Some critics have charged that the Fed overtightened and greatly increased chances of a downturn in the world's biggest economy this year or next.

Most private economists generally praised the reduction in the funds rate, the first cut since Sept. 4, 1992. Many predicted more rate cuts would follow if the U.S. economy remains soft.

"The Fed did the right

thing," said Robert Dederick, economic consultant at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. "This doesn't guarantee that there won't be a recession, but it certainly improves the odds that we can avoid one."

"Anytime the Fed has begun an easing process, it never eased by less than 0.75 percentage point and usually by more than that," said Bruce Steinberg, an economist at Merrill Lynch in New York.

Some economists saw the tiny size of the move, only 0.25 percentage point, as a compromise between Fed officials who were urging a delay until more information is known and those who wanted an even bolder strike against recession threats.

The National Association of Manufacturers, which has been pushing for rate cuts, called the move "a small step in the right direction.... Our only regret is that the rate cut wasn't larger."

The Clinton administration was cautious in its reaction, sensitive to charges that a president anxious to be reelected might be pressuring the central bank behind the

scenes to boost the economy. President Clinton must decide by next March whether to reappoint Greenspan for a third four-year term.

"The Federal Reserve is independent and the administration does not comment on specific monetary actions taken by the Federal Reserve," Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, said in a joint statement.

The two officials said they believed "many of the factors behind the recent weakness are likely to operate with less force in the future" and the economy's prospects remained favorable.

The index of leading indicators fell by 0.2 per cent in May, the fourth straight decline.

But other recent reports on retail sales and housing have pointed to a possible rebound in activity.

"It is still a mixed environment out there and the Fed is buying some insurance," said Robert Brusca, economist at Nikko Securities in New York.

Opportunities for Italian Entrepreneurs in Jordan Projects and Regional Infrastructure

The Government Agency Istituto nazionale per il Commercio Estero (ICE), Rome, the overseas arm of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade, has recently signed a contract with Abu-Ghazaleh Consulting (AGCO) to conduct a survey with the aim of identifying development projects in Jordan and regional projects and infrastructures involving Jordan.

The Contract was signed by Dr. Cesar Fritelli, Director, of ICE Beirut Office, on behalf of ICE, Rome, and Ms. Malak ElNasser, AGCO Consulting Manager. The purpose of the survey is to highlight areas of interest where Italian entrepreneurs can contribute to such projects through their skills, advanced technology, and experience.

The results of the survey will be discussed during a three-day seminar/forum to be organized by ICE, early December 1995 in Amman.

The seminar will be attended by Jordanian and Italian parties. In addition to the survey, Mr. Samir Salameh, ICE Envoy to Amman, in cooperation with the Embassy of Italy is currently collecting valid cooperation proposals from Jordanian concerns interested in industrial joint-ventures and/or technology transfer agreements with Italian companies.

ICE will relay such proposals to Italian parties for necessary "matchmaking" and will organize an Italian trade/industrial mission to Jordan late November 1995.

Barings was warned twice about disaster — Independent

LONDON (AFP) — Barings managers apparently failed to heed two clear warnings which could have prevented the bank's collapse in late February with losses of nearly \$900 million (\$1,350 million), the Independent said Saturday.

And Bank of England and Singapore investigators into the Barings collapse are raising questions about how far some executives may have tried to discreetly respond to the warnings without alerting normal managerial channels, it added.

Both warnings of grave irregularities in Barings' derivatives operations in Singapore, run by Nick Leeson,

were given in January, according to the Independent.

The Singapore exchange, Simex, contacted Barings' futures operation on Jan. 5 to seek clarification about a \$100 million discrepancy in margin payments on a specific customer account: 88888, the paper said.

This was the account, based on a fictitious customer, allegedly used by Mr. Leeson to conduct the massive speculation that led to losses of nearly \$900 million (\$1,350 million) and was blamed for the bank's collapse in late February.

The second alert came later in January when the auditors Coopers and Lybrand uncovered a \$75 million shortfall in Barings' futures operations in Singapore which could not be accounted for in trading losses, according to the Independent.

Coopers' concerns were transmitted to Geoffrey Broadhurst, Barings' group finance director, and to two other members of Barings' top management, Peter Norris and James Bax, the paper added.

It said that on Feb. 6 Mr. Norris told Ron Baker, head

of Barings' derivatives trading, that the problem was only an "operational error," an explanation subsequently repeated twice.

The Independent reported on Thursday that senior Barings executives knew of Mr. Leeson's secret derivatives trading account more than six weeks before the merchant bank collapsed.

The Singapore investigators probing the Barings failure were reported in May to be nearing the end of their enquiry after five weeks collecting evidence in Tokyo and London.

Morocco to reduce budget spending

RABAT (R) — Morocco plans to cut its budget spending and rationalise public administration this year to help cope with a severe drought, a government spokesman has said.

"The country is facing a difficult economic situation... due to the 1995 drought," Communication Minister and government spokesman Driss Alaoui Mdaghri told a news conference.

"Morocco will reduce state budget spending (for 1995) to be in conformity with the country's potentials and to

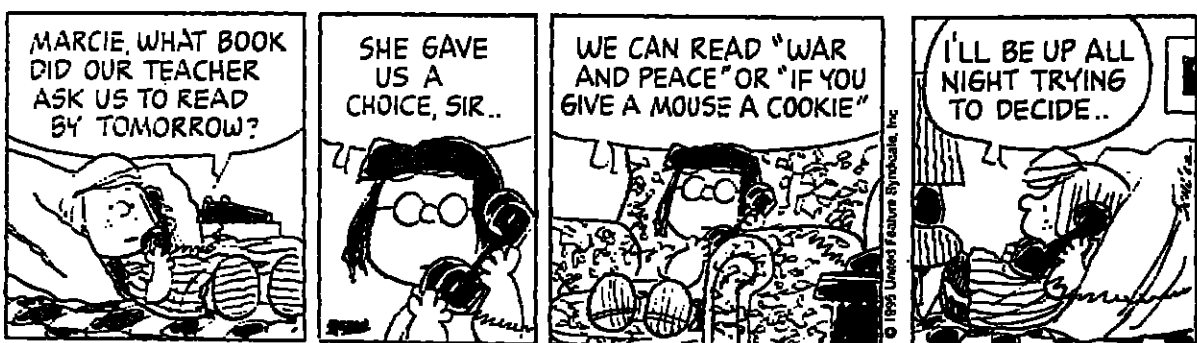
adapt to the difficult economic conjuncture."

He gave no figures but said a detailed statement would be issued later.

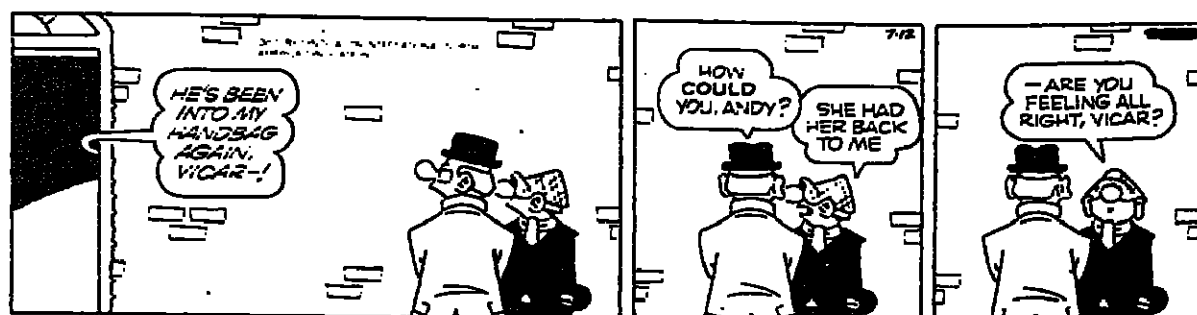
Last year the 333-seat parliament adopted a 114.4 billion dirhams (\$13.8 billion) state budget.

In May King Hassan described the drought which has hit the country this year as a "national disaster." He said the cereal harvest would not exceed 1.6 million tonnes compared with the record crop of 9.4 million tonnes in 1994.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



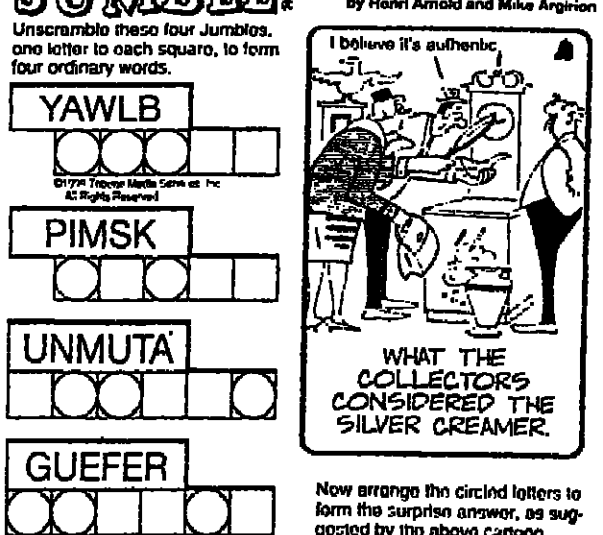
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Putterber



Thursday's Puzzle solved:

1 Across: JAZZ singing, of a kind
2 Down: VICTOR
3 Across: VICTOR
4 Down: VICTOR
5 Across: VICTOR
6 Down: VICTOR
7 Across: VICTOR
8 Down: VICTOR
9 Across: VICTOR
10 Down: VICTOR
11 Across: VICTOR
12 Down: VICTOR
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36 Down: VICTOR
37 Across: VICTOR
38 Down: VICTOR
39 Across: VICTOR
40 Down: VICTOR
41 Across: VICTOR
42 Down: VICTOR
43 Across: VICTOR
44 Down: VICTOR

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Truckers call for controlling land transport

Two officials said, "many of the recent weeks to operate with the future" and "the index of leading fell by 0.2 per cent in the fourth straight month."

Other recent reports on the housing market showed a possible recovery. A mixed picture emerged from the survey. The index of leading indicators fell by 0.2 per cent in the fourth straight month.

Other recent reports on the housing market showed a possible recovery. A mixed picture emerged from the survey. The index of leading indicators fell by 0.2 per cent in the fourth straight month.

Asia faces specter of hunger due to urbanisation

LOS BANOS, Philippines (AP) — Asia is facing the specter of massive hunger early in the next century unless governments can solve the problems of diminishing farm land caused by increasing population and a booming economy, experts say.

And natural calamities like drought and storms, over which governments have no control, further compound the situation, warned the International Rice Research Institute here.

"An important political objective in most rice-dependent countries is self-sufficiency in rice production in order to maintain stable prices. But rice harvests can fluctuate widely, especially in less favorable environments," the institute said in a paper. "Variable natural conditions cause year-to-year shortages and surpluses."

Countries with serious rice shortages also cannot depend on the thin international market for long-term help, added the institute, which 27 years ago developed the "miracle rice" which revolutionized rice production on a continent where millions depend on the plant as their staple.

"Most countries cannot depend on imports to meet the food needs of their people," the institute said. "The world market is thin and volatile." International trade accounts only to 4 per cent of world rice production.

As an example, it said that if China, the world's biggest rice producer and consumer, decides to meet just 10 per cent of its domestic consumption by 10 per cent, the world market price for the staple would increase by 80 per cent. Such a situation would dramatically push the price of rice and very few countries have adequate foreign exchange to a major buy, the institute added.

This early, the problem is already being felt in many countries in the region. Recently, an acute food shortage forced North Korea to swallow its pride and ask neighbor South Korea for 150,000 tonnes of rice. Japan also agreed to give Pyongyang 150,000 tonnes of rice and sell another 150,000 tonnes at concessional rates.

Vietnam, concerned about depleting its domestic rice supplies, has curbed official grain exports in an effort to offset rampant smuggling to China.

A severe drought forced the Philippines to make frantic calls to Thailand, Vietnam, China and India for some 200,000 tonnes that it will need.

It said even countries currently enjoying surpluses would have to find a way to control rising population and urbanisation. Scientists predict that by the year 2025 the world rice food need would reach 758 million tonnes — 70 per cent more than what is eaten today.

U.S. backs 'major role' for APEC mediation

SAPPORO, Japan (AFP) — The chairman of an advisory group to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum said Friday that the United States was ready to promote a new multilateral approach to trade disputes.

Fred Bergsten, a former assistant treasury secretary in the Carter administration who now chairs the APEC eminent persons group (EPG), said he saw a "major role" for the forum in mediating in trade disputes which could reduce the pressure on Washington to rely on unilateral threats.

"The United States, based on its history of trade policy, will in fact strongly support the effort to have APEC cover additional issues, to have APEC develop a dispute-settlement process that will further expand the prospects for a multilateral response to these issues," he said.

Washington is "very supportive and indeed welcomes the possibility of having additional APEC rules," Mr. Bergsten added. "That would reduce substantially the risk of continued resort to these unilateral measures."

Speaking at a news conference after presenting a report to a meeting of senior APEC officials in Sapporo, he noted "an increasing number of very substantial trade disputes in the region."

"The most recent was, of course, between the United States and Japan on automobile trade. We know that more disputes are coming between the United States and Japan. But there are a lot of disputes among other countries."

"And we in EPG are very concerned about the adverse effect of those disputes on the other countries in the region," he said.

Mr. Bergsten also noted that the dispute-settlement procedures of the Geneva-based World Trade Organization (WTO) were limited.

"There are lots of issues that are not covered by WTO," he said. "The WTO is highly legalistic. We think in this part of the world, it would be highly desirable to have a less formal, less confrontational kind of mechanism. That would be like mediation rather than arbitration."

Mr. Bergsten said it was "critically important" for APEC to move forward in implementing the declaration of APEC leaders in Indonesia last year calling for free and open trade and investment in the region by 2020.

Ipppei Yamazawa, an economics professor at Hitotsubashi University who is the Japanese member of the EPG, said earlier that the recent dispute over auto trade between Tokyo and Washington heightened the need an APEC role.

"Bilateral problems are no longer something only two countries can resolve," he told AFP. "I have heard a lot of calls from various countries for the creation of a dispute-mediation service. Mediation must be one of the major tasks to be carried out by APEC from now on."

"No one in the region can ignore the series of problems between Japan and the United States," he said.

While Japan and the United States managed to avert sanctions on Japanese cars with a last-minute compromise last week, other bilateral disputes remain in such sectors as aviation and photographic film.

As a first step, APEC needs to form a mechanism to involve third parties in bilateral disputes within the region. "It's very important to let all the members understand the need for a third-country mechanism," Mr. Yamazawa said.

Mr. Yamazawa also indicated that APEC would eventually have to formulate common rules for such a mediation service.

The idea of a "voluntary consultative dispute mediation service" was included in last year's declaration by APEC leaders. Such a service is expected to "supplement" the WTO.

The EPG, set up after the fourth meeting of APEC ministers in Thailand in 1992, played a major role in framing last year's declaration by APEC leaders and is expected to deliver another report in late August.

The group has so far met twice in Japan and Canada this year and will meet again in China next month and Brunei in September.

APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua, New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 08/07/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	7040	443391	218.500	218.650
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	12864	54406	4.570	4.630
BANK OF JORDAN	100	325	3.300	3.250
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	3000	4008	1.330	1.370
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3150	8072	2.570	2.570
THE HOUSING BANK	1900	15456	8.100	8.150
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	210	596	2.850	2.850
JORDAN GOLF BANK	3610	4623	1.290	1.280
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	350	1383	3.950	3.950
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	5047	10900	3.750	3.740
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1050	4673	4.520	4.450
BUSINESS BANK	1000	3900	3.900	3.900
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4816	20228	4.250	4.200
BEIT KHALIL SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2450	9385	3.780	3.850
NOHAM BANK FOR INVESTMENT	16350	18347	1.120	1.130
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	14050	22006	1.610	1.580
BANKS SECTOR	70987	629596	INDEX NUMBER: 180.65	CHANGE: -0.12%
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1200	3176	2.620	2.650
INSURANCE SECTOR	1200	3176	INDEX NUMBER: 135.63	CHANGE: +0.14%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	16520	28082	1.710	1.700
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	44100	264598	5.850	6.000
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	2750	7705	2.810	2.800
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2575	8973	2.400	2.320
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5025	5175	1.050	1.030
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	5500	6845	1.230	1.250
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1700	5609	3.300	3.320
SERVICES SECTOR	78170	323986	INDEX NUMBER: 132.51	CHANGE: +0.40%
ATTACHED CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	200	448	1.240	1.240
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	5845	22101	3.800	3.780
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	2681	8092	3.040	3.030
JORDAN SULPHATE REFINERY	853	8810	10.380	10.320
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1186	5876	5.000	4.950
JORDAN DAIRY	500	1175	2.400	2.350
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	400	1052	2.630	2.630
THE PUBLIC MINING	100	320	3.150	3.200
SPINNING & WEAVING	20262	41942	2.070	2.070
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES	1350	8437	2.320	2.320
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	87900	703168	7.900	8.000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	21950	11345	.540	.520
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	300	417	1.400	1.390
NATIONAL OIL INDUSTRIES	350	858	2.550	2.450
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	72050	165223	2.250	2.360
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	150	653	4.500	4.350
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACH/JIMCO	400	256	.630	.640
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	2500	5587	2.200	2.200
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	24450	78256	3.210	3.210
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	9350	20259	2.170	2.170
JORDAN KEM CABLE COMPANY	13612	26356	1.940	1.930
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	268390	1110428	INDEX NUMBER: 131.28	CHANGE: -0.28%
GRAND TOTAL	418747	2067287	INDEX NUMBER: 125.26	CHANGE: -0.13%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET			129412	
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET			149330	

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 5/7/95	Tokyo Close 5/7/95
Sterling Pound	1.5965	1.5944**
Deutsche Mark	1.3795	1.3429
Swiss Franc	1.1448	1.1439**
French Franc	4.8255	4.8243**
Japanese Yen	84.80	85.05
European Currency Unit	1.3372	1.3340**

Source: 6/7/1995

USD Per JTC

** European Opening @ 10:00 AM GMT

Source: 6/7/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.75	5.68	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.48	6.62	6.75	7.12
Deutsche Mark	4.37	4.37	4.57	4.50
Swiss Franc	2.75	2.81	2.93	3.12
French Franc	6.70	6.48	6.31	6.28
Japanese Yen	1.06	0.93	0.81	0.81
European Currency Unit	5.96	5.96	6.13	6.25

Source: 6/7/1995

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1025	1.1060
Deutsche Mark	0.5007	0.5032
Swiss Franc	0.6030	0.6060
French Franc	0.1431	0.1438
Japanese Yen	0.8158	0.8179
Dutch Guilder	0.4468	0.4490
Swedish Krona	0.0427	0.0429
Indian Lira	0.0427	0.0429
Belgian Franc	0.0427	0.0429

Source: 6/7/1995

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8190	1.8320
Lebanese Lira	0.041955	0.042965
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1859
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3090	2.3620
Qatari Riyal	0.1849	0.1902
Egyptian Pound	6.1900	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.7970
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1890
Greek Drachma	0.0705	0.0775
Cypriot Pound	1.5045	1.5965

Source: 6/7/1995

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Riis apologises for grabbing leader's jersey

CHARLEROI, Belgium (Agencies) — Sprinter Erik Zabel won the sixth stage and Bjarne Riis apologised to a teammate for grabbing the overall lead as the Tour de France entered Belgium here on Friday.

Though Italy's Ivan Gotti was originally thought to have retained his yellow jersey, a break in the bunch earned Denmark's Bjarne Riis three seconds over his teammate and the overall lead.

The 202-kilometre flat stage from French coastal town Dunkirk to Charleroi in southern Belgium was supposed to have provided little incident.

But the dream increased as Riis, in second place over all one second behind Gotti at Dunkirk, was unaware he had taken the lead when crossing the line.

Officials later confirmed a 1.2 second gap in the bunch with Riis in the first section and Gotti in the second. With the clock stopping at the first rider of each part of the pack, a three second gap was officially given.

Therefore the Dane, one second behind Gotti at the start, was unexpectedly thrust into the limelight.

Later Riis said: "I didn't know I had taken the yellow jersey. I knew there was a break in the pack, but I didn't think it was large enough."

"I was told in the team coach about 10 minutes later. It really wasn't my fault I took the yellow jersey from Gotti."

Tour de France

Gotti himself said: "I was disappointed to lose the yellow jersey in this way. I didn't realise there was a break in the bunch. But as a teammate is in yellow, it's less hard to take."

Riis is no slouch in the saddle, however. The 31-year-old was fifth in this race two years ago and won a stage last year. He is a consistent rider and his nine years as a professional has given him a wealth of experience.

Meanwhile Zabel had his moment of glory to celebrate his 25th birthday on Friday with the stage win. He pushed former overall leader Laurent Jalabert into second place, with Uzbek Djamilidin Abdurajapov third and Slovakia's Jan Svorada fourth.

Earlier, Jalabert had notched up 22 seconds in

bonus sprints to put him third overall, eight seconds from Riis and six from Gotti.

Attacks were mounted throughout the stage, but none succeeded.

France's Francois Simon and Belgian Herman Frison made a break after 100-kilometre, but were caught

28-kilometre from the line. France's Jean-Francois Bernard and Italians Maurizio Fondriest and Rossano Brasi also made their bids, but were caught 6-kilometre from the line.

The tour continues its three day stint in Belgium with a 203-kilometre stretch from Charleroi to Liege, before the crucial 54-kilometre individual time trial.

Rominger insists he is focused on tour

An angry Tony Rominger hit out on Friday against critics who have accused him of keeping a low profile in the Tour de France.

"Everyday, I'm in front and I risk my life to avoid being left behind," said the Swiss rider who is one of the favourites for the world's greatest cycle race.

Special Olympian feared drowned

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) Nepal's Special Olympics soccer team accepted bronze medals despite the loss of a teammate, who was feared drowned.

During the ceremony late Friday, five team members bowed their heads as the medals were placed around their necks. Then they held hands and raised their arms in triumph.

Teammate Ramesh Mali disappeared off the Connecticut coast on Thursday while swimming with his friends.

Hours before the medal ceremony, the team took to the field a final time, determined to go on with a match against the Ivory Coast. They played poorly but were cheered heartily.

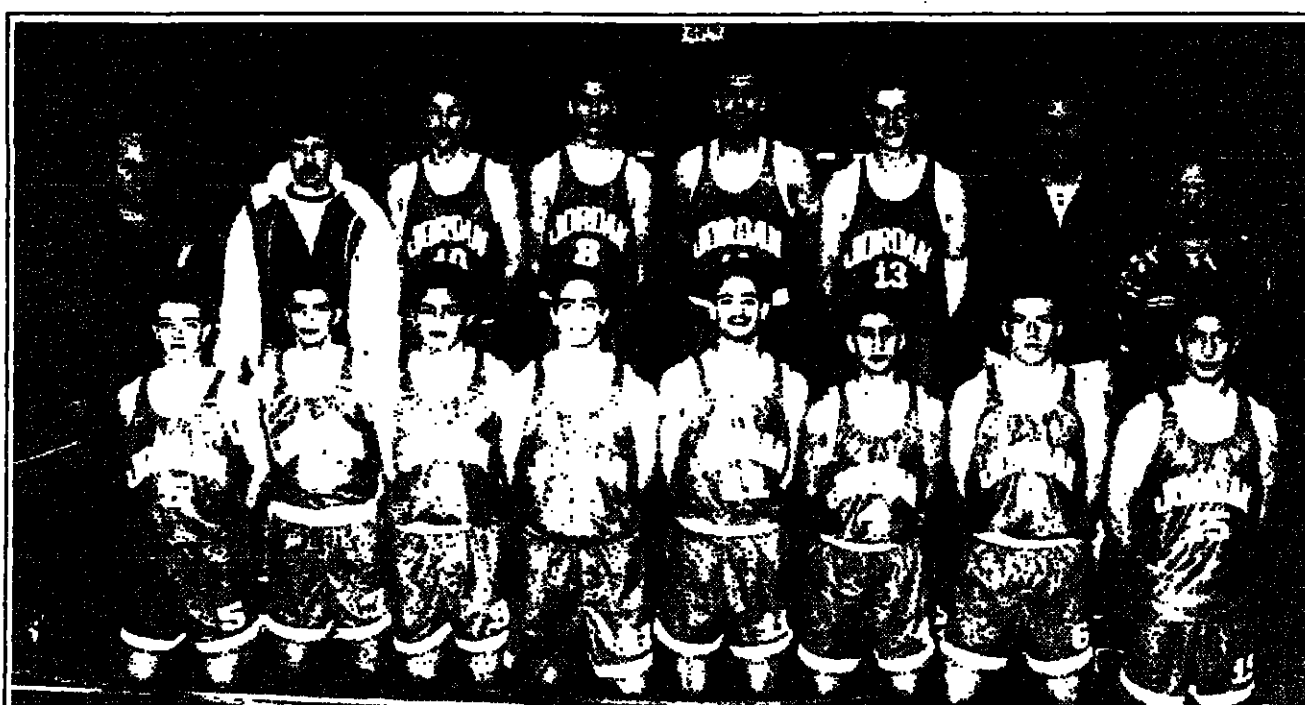
Former Gov. Lowell P. Weicker, chairman of the Special Olympic world games, was on the sidelines to give his support. So were members of the Utah soccer team, who had lost to Nepal two days earlier.

"They've got a tough opponent but they're playing gamely, and the fact that they're playing at all is a testament to their courage," Weicker said.

The game started with a long moment of silence in honour of Mali. His teammates bowed their heads and shut their eyes tightly. Mali's name was still on their roster Friday.

Even with some deft passing by the team in purple and white and cheers from a small but devoted group of fans, Nepal was unable to score. They lost 6-0 to the Ivory Coast.

After a long meeting Thursday night with Timothy Shriver, the president of the Special Olympics World Games, the team decided to continue to compete. The Nepalese were escorted to the field Friday by police and about a dozen Olympic organizers, who guarded them heavily and declined requests from reporters for interviews with the team and coach.



Jordan's U-18 basketball team

Kingdom's U-18 basketball team leaves for World Championship

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Under-18 national basketball team Sunday leave for Athens to take part in the Youth world Basketball Championship which will be held in the Greek capital July 12-22 with 17 teams taking part.

Together with China and Korea, the Kingdom's team will be representing Asia after becoming the first Jordanian team to qualify for a world championship by clinching the Asian bronze medal earlier this year.

The participating teams have been divided into four groups:

Group A: China, Venezuela, Lithuania, Croatia

Group B: Nigeria, Korea, Argentina, France

Group C: Jordan, Australia, U.S., Italy

Group D: Angola, Puerto Rico, Greece, Spain.

Jordan's delegation will be headed by Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) vice-chairman Samir Janakat and includes players: Zeid Alkhas, Ma'an Odeh, Ashraf Samarah, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Samer Nino, Zeid

Za'mot, Ihab Msh, Ra'ed Ghosheh, Ziyad Naghboj, Ramzi Ghneim, Fadi Al Saqaa and Seif Al Lada'a.

In the opening round Jordan face Italy on July 12, the U.S. July 13 and Australia July 14. The second round begins July 21.

While playing in the most difficult group with titleholders the U.S. and second placed Italy, the Jordanian team have garnered sufficient match-experience in the past five months. The backing of sponsors and officials made them probably the country's most well looked after national team.

Royal Jordanian offered to fly the team to Athens and the JBF have postponed all local basketball competitions until after the Kingdom's national team ends its competitions.

Their hard work has so far paid off. Initially, their third place finish in Asia was achieved by a series of matches in Amman and Syria as well as a rigid training schedule.

When the team passed the test with flying colours, the JBF put all its effort, time and money to best prepare the team for the World Championship. They

even managed to get the Ministry of Education's exemption of Tawjihi students on the team from the second semester exam and considered their initial marks as final.

Citing a cash-strapped budget and the need for a thorough training camp, the JBF then took the controversial decision of registering the U-18 team for the recently-concluded Asian men's championship where they finished 17th among 19 participating teams but undoubtedly gained match experience against better teams.

Jordan will be only the third Arab country ever to take part in the World Championship. Egypt finished last among 12 countries in the first competition in Sao Paulo in 1979 and Syria came in 12th among 16 in the 1992 championship in Canada.

World Championship record

Sao Paulo 1979

First: U.S.
Second: Brazil
Third: Argentina

Spain 1983

First: U.S.
Second: Soviet Union
Third: Brazil
Italy 1987

First: Yugoslavia.
Second: U.S.
Third: Italy

Canada 1992

First: U.S.
Second: Italy
Third: Argentina

Results of Egypt's team in 1979:

Philippines-Egypt: 126-68
Uruguay-Egypt: 126-67
Australia-Egypt: 88-59
Argentina-Egypt: 150-44
Soviet Union-Egypt: 128-60
U.S.-Egypt: 128-38
Canada-Egypt: 105-68

Results of Syria's team in 1992:

Brazil-Syria: 113-80
Soviet Union-Syria: 99-88
Yugoslavia-Syria: 80-67
Australia-Syria: 76-72
Syria-Japan: 93-79
China-Syria: 93-82
Australia-Syria: 104-80

Gascoigne arrives in Glasgow

GLASGOW (AFP) — England's Paul Gascoigne puts the finishing touches to his £4.5 million (\$7.5 million) move from Lazio to Rangers here on Monday.

The 1990 World Cup star is set to give an afternoon news conference to seal his move to the Scottish champions.

A four-team tournament at the end of July has been organised by Rangers and Gascoigne is expected to feature. He may also make his first appearance in a friendly on Friday, before joining the rest of the team in a tour of Denmark.

But his first competitive match will almost certainly come in the European Cup, just before the start of the League season.

Rangers face a preliminary round tie in the competition after a disappointing performance last season and will

know their fate next Wednesday when the draw is made in Switzerland.

It is believed it was the promise of European football at the top level that finally convinced Gascoigne his future lay in Scotland after injury problems curtailed his career at club and international level.

He re-emerged in the England squad for the Umbro Cup last season and showed glimpses of the form that had made him such an outstanding talent with Newcastle and Spurs.

Now he is hoping to rekindle his career at Rangers, knowing that if any problems occur, he can be back home with his family in Newcastle inside a couple of hours.

He will be accompanied by his minders on Monday when Ibrox will be turned into a media circus, the like of

which is unlikely to be rivalled on any ground in Britain.

Meanwhile, Rangers expect a decision on whether Romanian player Florin Raducioiu has agreed to join them from Spanish side Espanol.

Rangers manager Walter Smith said: "I expect a decision on Saturday and I am optimistic about it."

"It has been an awkward time because the Spanish season finished in mid-June and the player has been on holiday while his agent was working abroad."

Earlier this week, Rangers signed signed 23-year-old defender Stephen Wright from Aberdeen.

The Dons rejected a 900,000 pound bid from the champions and the deal is likely to be settled by a tribunal.

PLEASE KEEP THIS NUMBER 667391

If you faced problems concerning: electricity, telephones, kitchens & bathrooms, furniture, electronics, paint. Note: we are ready to do around the house maintenance with a reasonable discount.
please call Mr. Imad from 8 am - 8 pm

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT OR SALE

Consists of 3 bedrooms, spacious salon, dining & sitting room, library, glassed-in veranda, lift, independent central heating, telephone, third floor, area 194sqm. Location 5th circle / behind 5th circle pharmacy.
for more information call 814451

SEMI VILLA FOR RENT

consists of 3 bedrooms (one master), dining room, 3 salons, spacious American kitchen, 3 glassed-in verandas, 3 bathrooms, garden, garage, telephone line, independent services, area 315 sq.m
Location: swiffish/ American embassy street, diplomatic mission preferred.
For information call telephone 819714 Amman.

FOR RENT

in Tla'a Al Ali area. Roof with a view; furnished, 2 bedrooms, living + dining room, 3 bathrooms + kitchen + large terrace. Centrally heated with telephone.
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Tel. 827151, 2, 3, 4 Fax. 816894

Applications are invited from experienced, qualified teachers for the following subject areas for the start of the new academic year (August 1995).

- Economics to IGCSE and "A" level
- Mathematics to IGCSE level
- History to IGCSE and "A" level

Interested candidates should apply by letter, enclosing a curriculum vitae together with the names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers of two professional referees. Application packages should be sent to the Director General, New English School, P.O. Box 154, Khaldi, Amman, by Wed. 12. July at the latest. Candidates selected to come to interview will be notified as soon as possible after this date.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

First-floor, independent apartment, with garden and separate garage. Consists of two bedrooms, spacious kitchen, guest room, sitting room, dining room, maid room, glassed-in veranda, independent central heating, telephone. With luxurious furniture.
Please call tel. 665711 or 664256.

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Volvo 940 GL, model 1992, black colour, full options, excellent condition, duty unpaid.
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Fully Furnished Roof in Shmeisani.
Two bedrooms, dining room, living room, two bathrooms, large terrace.
Telephone available.
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Required candidates with dynamic personality and leadership qualities for the post of personal secretary.

Candidates should possess:

- Institute diploma (secretarial) with knowledge of shorthand and PC operations.
- Fluency in both Arabic and English languages (reading, writing and spoken).
- Capacity to translate from Arabic to English and vice versa.
- Comprehensive knowledge of secretarial duties, English and Arabic typewriting.
- Minimum five years experience as personal secretary.

Candidates fulfilling the above requirements may please forward the applications along with photograph and CV in English to

P.O. Box 926787, Amman 11110,
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